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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

MICHAEL COLE, Derivatively on Behalf of
Nominal Defendants HAWAIIAN
ELECTRIC INDUSTRIES, INC.
and HAWAIIAN ELECTRIC COMPANY,
INC.,

Plaintiff,

v.

TIMOTHY E. JOHNS, JAMES A. AJELLO,
SCOTT W. H. SEU, THOMAS B. FARGO,
CELESTE A. CONNORS, ELISIA K.
FLORES, PEGGY Y. FOWLER, MICAH A.
KANE, YOKO OTANI, RICHARD J.
DAHL, KEITH P. RUSSELL, MICHAEL J.
KENNEDY, WILLIAM JAMES SCILACCI,
JR., MARY E. KIPP, ALANA K.
PAKKALA, TOBY B. TANIGUCHI,
KEVIN M. BURKE, EVA T. ZLOTNICKA,
MARY G. POWELL, CONSTANCE H.
LAU, PAUL K. ITO, GREGORY C.
HAZELTON, SHELEE M. T. KIMURA, and
TANYE S. Y. SEKIMURA,

Defendants,

and

Case No.:

**VERIFIED SHAREHOLDER
DERIVATIVE COMPLAINT**

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

HAWAIIAN ELECTRIC INDUSTRIES,
INC. and HAWAIIAN ELECTRIC
COMPANY, INC,

Nominal Defendants.

Plaintiff Michael Cole (“Plaintiff”), by and through his undersigned attorneys, brings this derivative complaint for the benefit of nominal defendants Hawaiian Electric Industries, Inc. and Hawaiian Electric Company, Inc. (together “Hawaiian Electric” or the “Company”), against certain current and former members of the Company’s Board of Directors (the “Board”) and certain of its executive officers seeking to remedy the Individual Defendants’ (defined below) violations of federal law and breaches of fiduciary duties. Plaintiff alleges the following based upon personal knowledge as to himself and his own acts, and information and belief as to all other matters, based upon, inter alia, the investigation conducted by and through Plaintiff’s attorneys, which included, among other things, a review of Defendants’ publicly available documents, United States Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”) filings, press releases published by and regarding Hawaiian Electric, legal filings, news reports, securities analysts’ reports about the Company, the securities class action *Bhangal v. Hawaiian Electric Industries, Inc. et al.*, Case No. 3:23-cv-04332 (N.D. Cal.) (the “Securities Class Action”), and other publicly available information.

NATURE OF THE ACTION

1. This is a shareholder derivative action brought by Plaintiff on behalf of Hawaiian Electric against certain of its officers and current and former members of the Board (the “Individual Defendants”)¹ to remedy breaches of their fiduciary duties and other violations of

¹ The Individual Defendants Timothy E. Johns, James A. Ajello, Scott W. H. Seu, Thomas B. Fargo, Celeste A. Connors, Elisia K. Flores, Peggy Y. Fowler, Micah A. Kane, Yoko Otani, Richard J. Dahl, Keith P. Russell, Michael J. Kennedy, William James Scilacci, Jr., Mary E. Kipp, Alana K. Pakkala, Toby B. Taniguchi, Kevin M. Burke, Eva T. Zlotnicka, Mary G. Powell, Constance H. Lau, Paul K. Ito, Gregory C. Hazelton, Shelee M. T. Kimura, and Tanye S. Y. Sekimura.

1 state and federal law between at least February 28, 2019 and August 16, 2023 (the “Relevant
2 Period”) that have caused substantial harm to the Company.

3 2. Hawaiian Electric, together with its subsidiaries, engages in the electric utility,
4 banking, and non-regulated renewable/sustainable infrastructure investment businesses in the
5 state of Hawaii. The Company provides service to 95% of Hawaiian residents and operates in
6 three segments, including the Electric Utility segment, which engages in the production, purchase,
7 transmission, distribution, and sale of electricity in the islands of Oahu, Hawaii, Maui, Lanai, and
8 Molokai.
9

10 3. As a utility service based in and serving the citizens of Hawaii, Hawaiian Electric
11 is subject to oversight from both federal and state regulators, including by the Hawaii Public
12 Utilities Commission (“PUC”). Accordingly, pursuant to section 8.2 of its General Orders No. 7,
13 the PUC requires that Hawaiian Electric “exercise reasonable care to reduce the hazards to which
14 its employees, its customers, and the general public may be subjected.” A failure to conform to
15 or comply with this requirement “shall be subject to a civil penalty not to exceed \$25,000 for each
16 day such violation, neglect, or failure continues.” Haw. Rev. Stat. § 269-28(a). As such,
17 compliance with the PUC’s order is imperative for Hawaiian Electric, Inc. as failure to do so
18 could lead to significant penalties.
19

20 4. For an electric utility company, it is essential that their transmission and
21 distribution (“T&D”) components – the transmission lines, substations, distribution lines, and
22 transformers which make up the Electricity Delivery Network in the United States - are
23 maintained properly in order to be safe, reliable, and resilient. The electric power industry has
24 certain inherent hazards and risks, primarily due to the fact that the T&D components collectively
25 deliver “[a]pproximately four trillion kWh of electric energy” annually across the United States
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1 and T&D components are exposed to a variety of extreme weather events, as well as general wear
2 and tear.

3 5. Accordingly, the Individual Defendants knew of the attendant risks in not properly
4 maintaining their T&D components and were thus responsible for ensuring that the Company met
5 all relevant regulations, and that safety was ensured.
6

7 6. Throughout the Relevant Period, Defendants made materially false and/or
8 misleading statements and failed to disclose material adverse facts about the Company's business,
9 operations, and prospects. Specifically, Defendants failed to disclose that, in addition to
10 maintaining insufficient controls, Hawaiian Electric's wildfire prevention and safety protocols
11 and procedures were inadequate to meet the challenges for which they were ostensibly designed
12 and despite knowing the degree of risk that wildfires posed to Maui and the Company's
13 inadequate safety protocols and procedures placed Maui at a heightened risk of devastating
14 wildfires.
15

16 7. As a result of the foregoing, the Securities Class Action was filed against the
17 Company as well Defendants Constance H. Lau, Scott W. H. Seu, Gregory C. Hazelton, and Paul
18 K. Ito, exposing Hawaiian Electric to massive class-wide liability.
19

20 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

21 8. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331 and
22 Section 27 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Exchange Act") over the claims asserted
23 herein for violations of the Exchange Act (15 U.S.C. §§ 78n(a) and Rule 14a-9 (17
24 C.F.R. §240.14a-9) promulgated thereunder by the SEC, and Sections 10(b) and 21D of the
25 Exchange Act (15 U.S.C. § § 78j(b), 78u-4(f)).
26

27 9. This Court has supplemental jurisdiction over Plaintiff's state law claims pursuant
28

1 to 28 U.S.C. § 1367(a).

2 10. This action is not a collusive action designed to confer jurisdiction on a court of
3 the United States that it would not otherwise have.

4 11. This Court has jurisdiction over each defendant named herein because each
5 defendant is either a corporation that conducts business in and maintains operations in this District
6 or is an individual who has sufficient minimum contacts with this District to render the exercise
7 of jurisdiction by the courts of this District permissible under traditional notions of fair play and
8 substantial justice.
9

10 12. Venue is proper in this Court because: (a) the Company maintains its principal
11 place of business in this District; (b) one or more of the defendants either resides in or maintains
12 executive offices in this District; (c) a substantial portion of the transactions and wrongs
13 complained of herein, including Defendants' primary participation in the wrongful acts detailed
14 herein and aiding and abetting and conspiracy in violation of fiduciary duties owed to the
15 Company, occurred in this District; and (d) Defendants have received substantial compensation
16 in this District by doing business here and engaging in numerous activities that had an effect in
17 this District.
18
19

20 **PARTIES**

21 ***Plaintiff***

22 13. Plaintiff is, and has been at all relevant times, a shareholder of Hawaiian Electric.
23

24 ***Nominal Defendant***

25 14. Nominal Defendant Hawaiian Electric is a Hawaiian corporation with principal
26 executive offices located at 1001 Bishop Street, Suite 2900, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813.
27

28 ***Director Defendants***

1 15. Defendant Timothy E. Johns (“Johns”) is and has been at all relevant times a
2 Director of the Company and Chairman of the Board. The Company’s website states that
3 Defendant Johns has: “[c]orporate governance knowledge and familiarity with financial oversight
4 and fiduciary responsibilities from overseeing the HMSA Internal Audit department, from his
5 prior service as a director for The Gas Company LLC (now Hawaii Gas) and his current service
6 as a trustee of the Parker Ranch Foundation Trust (charitable trust with assets valued at over \$350
7 million), as a director and Audit Committee Chair for Parker Ranch, Inc. (largest ranch in Hawaii,
8 with significant real estate assets), as a director and Audit Committee member for Grove Farm
9 Company, Inc. (privately-held community and real estate development firm operating on the
10 island of Kauai) and on the board of Kualoa Ranch, Inc.”

13 16. Defendant James A. Ajello (“Ajello”) is and has been at all relevant times a
14 Director of the Company and member of its Board’s Audit and Risk Committee, having joined
15 the Company in 2020.

17 17. Defendant Scott W. H. Seu (“Seu”) has served as the Company’s President, Chief
18 Executive Officer (“CEO”), and Director since January 2022. Defendant Seu also served in
19 several leadership positions at the Company for almost three decades, including serving as (i)
20 President and CEO of the Company from February 2020 to December 2021; (ii) Senior Vice
21 President, Public Affairs, of the Company from January 2017 – February 2020; (iii) Vice
22 President, System Operation, of the Company from May 2014 – December 2016; (iv) Vice
23 President, Energy Resources and Operations, of the Company from January 2013 – April 2014;
24 and (v) Vice President, Energy Resources, of the Company from August 2010 – December 2012.
25 As an expert in risk management and executive with decades of experience running the Company,
26 Defendant Seu was aware of the risks posed to the Company due to potential wildfires and had a
27
28

1 duty to address and mitigate such risks.

2 18. Defendant Thomas B. Fargo (“Fargo”) has served as a Director of the Company
3 since 2005. Defendant Fargo serves and has served at all relevant times as Chairman of the Board
4 and Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Company, as well as a member of the Board’s
5 Compensation & Human Capital Management Committee and the Board’s Nominating and
6 Corporate Governance Committee. Defendant Fargo also served as a Director of the Company
7 from 2005 to 2016.
8

9 19. Defendant Celeste A. Connors (“Connors”) has served as a director of the
10 Company since 2019. Defendant Connors also serves as a member of the Audit & Risk
11 Committee.
12

13 20. Defendant Elisia K. Flores (“Flores”) has served as a director of the Company
14 since 2021. Defendant Flores also serves as a member of the Audit & Risk Committee.
15

16 21. Defendant Peggy Y. Fowler (“Fowler”) has served as a director of the Company
17 since 2019. Defendant Fowler served at all relevant times as a member of the Executive
18 Committee, as well as a member of the Board’s Compensation & Human Capital Management
19 Committee and the Board’s Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee. Defendant
20 Fowler also served as a Director from 2009 to 2016. Defendant Fowler also previously served in
21 executive roles for nearly four decades at Portland General Electric, including as President and
22 CEO of the utility. As a result of all this experience, Defendant Fowler was well aware of the
23 risks of wildfires and the need to adopt and implement a power shutoff system to avoid such
24 wildfires.
25

26 22. Defendant Micah A. Kane (“Kane”) has served as a Director of the Company since
27 2019. Defendant Kane also serves as a member of the Compensation & Human Capital
28

1 Management and Nominating & Corporate Governance Committees.

2 23. Defendant Yoko Otani (“Otani”) is and has been a Director of the Company and
3 member of the Board’s Audit and Risk Committee since January 1, 2023. The Company
4 represents in its Proxy Statement that: “At the height of the financial crisis in 2008-2009 and
5 thereafter with regulatory reforms in the financial services sector, Ms. Otani advised some of the
6 most prestigious national and international financial services companies on multiple aspects of
7 risk, compliance, business strategy and corporate governance in her role as managing director at
8 a global financial consulting firm.” As an expert in risk management and member of the
9 Company’s Audit and Risk Committee, Defendant Otani was aware of the material risks posed
10 to the Company due to potential wildfires and had a duty to address and mitigate such risks.
11

12 24. Defendant Richard J. Dahl (“Dahl”) is and has been a Director since 2017.
13 Defendant Dahl served at all relevant times as a member of the Executive Committee, as well as
14 a member of the Board’s Compensation & Human Capital Management Committee and the
15 Board’s Audit and Risk Committee. The Company’s Proxy Statement dated March 24, 2023
16 stated that Defendant Dahl is an expert on risk management: “He is an audit, risk management
17 and financial expert from his former chairmanship of the IDACORP, Inc. audit committee,
18 membership on the Dine Brands Global, Inc. audit committee, previous work experience with
19 accounting firm Ernst & Young, and prior licensure as a Certified Public Accountant and Certified
20 Bank Auditor.” Defendant Dahl also served as Director of the Company from 2017-2019.
21

22 25. Defendant Keith P. Russell (“Russell”) was a Director of the Company during the
23 relevant time period, including from at least 2011 to 2023.
24

25 26. Defendant Michael J. Kennedy (“Kennedy”) is and has been a Director of the
26 Company since August 1, 2022.
27
28

1 27. Defendant William James Scilacci, Jr. (“Scilacci”) is and has been a Director of
2 the Company since 2019. Defendant Scilacci served at all relevant times as a member of the
3 Executive Committee, as well as a member of the Board’s Audit and Risk Committee. The
4 Company’s March 24, 2023 Proxy Statement promotes that Defendant Scilacci has extensive
5 utility experience through his over twenty years in financial management with Southern
6 California Edison, the primary energy supply company for Southern California. The Proxy
7 Statement states that “Mr. Scilacci has a keen understanding and extensive knowledge of
8 enterprise risk management from his role as Chief Financial Officer of Edison International. For
9 eight years, Mr. Scilacci managed Edison International’s enterprise risk management program
10 identifying, monitoring, and forecasting new risks to the company including ESG related risks
11 such as the impacts of climate change.” Thus, Defendant Scilacci was aware of the material risks
12 posed to the Company due to potential wildfires and had a duty to address and mitigate such risks.
13 Defendant Scilacci is a citizen of California.

14
15
16 28. Defendant Thomas B. Fargo (“Fargo”) is and has been a Director of the Company
17 since 2005. Defendant Fargo also serves and has served at all relevant times as Chairman of the
18 Board and Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Company, as well as a member of the
19 Board’s Compensation & Human Capital Management Committee and the Board’s Nominating
20 and Corporate Governance Committee.

21
22 29. Defendant Mary E. Kipp (“Kipp”) is and has been at all relevant times a Director
23 of the Company and member of its Board’s Audit and Risk Committee. Defendant Kipp has also
24 served as President and Chief Executive Officer, Puget Sound Energy, Inc., since January 2020.
25 Previously, Defendant Kipp worked at El Paso Electric Company (NYSE: EE), President 2014-
26 2015, Chief Executive Officer 2015-2017, President and Chief Executive Officer 2017-2019.
27
28

30. Defendant Alana K. Pakkala (“Pakkala”) is and has been at all relevant times a Director of the Company and member of its Board’s Audit and Risk Committee, having joined the Company in 2020.

31. Defendant Toby B. Taniguchi (“Taniguchi”) is and has been at all relevant times a Director of the Company and member of its Board’s Audit and Risk Committee, having joined the Company in 2021.

32. Defendant Kevin M. Burke (“Burke”) was a Company director from 2018 through to 2023. Defendant Burke also served on the Company’s Audit & Risk Committee during the Relevant Period.

33. Defendant Eva T. Zlotnicka (“Zlotnicka”) was a Company director from 2020 through to 2021.

34. Defendant Mary G. Powell (“Powell”) was a Company director from 2019 through to 2021.

Officer Defendants

35. Defendant Constance H. Lau (“Lau”) served as the Company’s President and Chief Executive Officer (“CEO”) from prior to the start of the Relevant Period until January 2022.

36. Defendant Paul K. Ito (“Ito”) served as the Company’s Interim Chief Financial Officer (“CFO”) from July 2022 until January 2023, and has served as the Company’s Executive Vice President, (“EVP”) Treasurer, and CFO since January 2023.

37. Defendant Gregory C. Hazelton (“Hazelton”) served as the Company’s Vice President (“VP”), CFO, and Treasurer from prior to the start of the Relevant Period until July 2022.

38. Defendant Shelee M. T. Kimura (“Kimura”) has served as the President and CEO

1 of Hawaiian Electric Company since January 2022, having previously served in other senior roles
2 within the Company for years prior to that, since 2004.

3 39. Defendant Tanye S. Y. Sekimura (“Sekimura”) was the Senior Vice President
4 (“SVP”) and CFO of the Company up until her retirement on October 1, 2023, after serving the
5 Company for 32 years.
6

7
8 **FIDUCIARY DUTIES OF THE INDIVIDUAL DEFENDANTS**

9 40. By reason of their positions as officers and/or directors of Hawaiian Electric, and
10 because of their ability to control the business and corporate affairs of Hawaiian Electric, the
11 Individual Defendants owed Hawaiian Electric and its shareholders fiduciary obligations of trust,
12 loyalty, good faith, and due care, and were and are required to use their utmost ability to control
13 and manage Hawaiian Electric in a fair, just, honest, and equitable manner. The Individual
14 Defendants were and are required to act in furtherance of the best interests of Hawaiian Electric
15 and its shareholders so as to benefit all shareholders equally.
16
17

18 41. Each director and officer of the Company owes to Hawaiian Electric and its
19 shareholders the fiduciary duty to exercise good faith and diligence in the administration of the
20 Company and in the use and preservation of its property and assets and the highest obligation of
21 fair dealing.
22

23 42. The Individual Defendants, because of their positions of control and authority as
24 directors and/or officers of Hawaiian Electric, were able to and did, directly and/or indirectly,
25 exercise control over the wrongful acts complained of herein.

26 43. To discharge their duties, the officers and directors of Hawaiian Electric were
27 required to exercise reasonable and prudent supervision over the management, policies, controls,
28

1 and operations of the Company.

2 44. Each Individual Defendant, by virtue of his or her position as a director and/or
3 officer owed to the Company and to its shareholders the highest fiduciary duties of loyalty, good
4 faith, and the exercise of due care and diligence in the management and administration of the
5 affairs of the Company, as well as in the use and preservation of its property and assets. The
6 conduct of the Individual Defendants complained of herein involves a knowing and culpable
7 violation of their obligations as directors and/or officers of Hawaiian Electric, the absence of good
8 faith on their part, or a reckless disregard for their duties to the Company and its shareholders that
9 the Individual Defendants were aware or should have been aware posed a risk of serious injury
10 to the Company.

13 45. As senior executive officers and directors of a publicly-traded company whose
14 common stock was registered with the SEC pursuant to the Exchange Act and traded on the
15 NASDAQ, the Individual Defendants had a duty to prevent and not to effect the dissemination of
16 inaccurate and untruthful information with respect to the Company's financial condition,
17 performance, growth, financial statements, products, management, internal controls, earnings,
18 and present and future business prospects, including the dissemination of false and/or materially
19 misleading information regarding the Company's business, prospects, and operations, and had a
20 duty to cause the Company to disclose in its regulatory filings with the SEC all those facts
21 described in this Complaint that it failed to disclose, so that the market price of the Company's
22 common stock would be based upon truthful, accurate, and fairly presented information.

25 46. To discharge their duties, the officers and directors of Hawaiian Electric were
26 required to exercise reasonable and prudent supervision over the management, policies, practices,
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28

1 and internal controls of the Company. By virtue of such duties, the officers and directors of
2 Hawaiian Electric were required to, among other things:

3 (a) ensure that the Company was operated in a diligent, honest, and prudent
4 manner in accordance with the laws and regulations of Delaware and the
5 United States, and pursuant to Hawaiian Electric's own Code of Business
6 Conduct (the "Code of Conduct");
7

8 (b) conduct the affairs of the Company in an efficient, business-like manner
9 so as to make it possible to provide the highest quality performance of its
10 business, to avoid wasting the Company's assets, and to maximize the
11 value of the Company's stock;
12

13 (c) remain informed as to how Hawaiian Electric conducted its operations, and,
14 upon receipt of notice or information of imprudent or unsound conditions
15 or practices, to make reasonable inquiry in connection therewith, and to
16 take steps to correct such conditions or practices;
17

18 (d) establish and maintain systematic and accurate records and reports of the
19 business and internal affairs of Hawaiian Electric and procedures for the
20 reporting of the business and internal affairs to the Board and to
21 periodically investigate, or cause independent investigation to be made of,
22 said reports and records;
23

24 (e) maintain and implement an adequate and functioning system of internal
25 legal, financial, and management controls, such that Hawaiian Electric's
26 operations would comply with all applicable laws and Hawaiian Electric's
27 financial statements and regulatory filings filed with the SEC and
28

1 disseminated to the public and the Company's shareholders would be
2 accurate;

3 (f) exercise reasonable control and supervision over the public statements
4 made by the Company's officers and employees and any other reports or
5 information that the Company was required by law to disseminate;
6

7 (g) refrain from unduly benefiting themselves and other Company insiders at
8 the expense of the Company; and

9 (h) examine and evaluate any reports of examinations, audits, or other
10 financial information concerning the financial affairs of the Company and
11 to make full and accurate disclosure of all material facts concerning, inter
12 alia, each of the subjects and duties set forth above.
13

14 47. Each of the Individual Defendants further owed to Hawaiian Electric and the
15 shareholders the duty of loyalty requiring that each favor Hawaiian Electric's interest and that of
16 its shareholders over their own while conducting the affairs of the Company and refrain from
17 using their position, influence, or knowledge of the affairs of the Company to gain personal
18 advantage.
19

20 48. At all times relevant hereto, the Individual Defendants were the agents of each
21 other and of Hawaiian Electric and were at all times acting within the course and scope of such
22 agency.
23

24 49. Because of their advisory, executive, managerial, and directorial positions with
25 Hawaiian Electric, each of the Individual Defendants had access to adverse, non-public
26 information about the Company.
27

28 50. The Individual Defendants, because of their positions of control and authority,

1 were able to and did, directly or indirectly, exercise control over the wrongful acts complained of
2 herein, as well as the contents of the various public statements issued by Hawaiian Electric.

3 51. The Individual Defendants, because of their positions with Hawaiian Electric,
4 possessed the power and authority to control the contents of the Company's reports to the SEC,
5 press releases, and presentations to securities analysts, money and portfolio managers, and
6 institutional investors. Each of the Individual Defendants was provided with copies of the
7 Company's reports, presentations, and press releases alleged herein to be misleading prior to, or
8 shortly after, their issuance and had the ability and opportunity to prevent their issuance or cause
9 them to be corrected. Because of their positions and access to material non-public information
10 available to them, each of the Individual Defendants knew that the adverse facts specified herein
11 had not been disclosed to, and were being concealed from, the public, and that the positive
12 representations which were being made were then materially false and/or misleading.
13
14

15 **HAWAIIAN ELECTRIC'S CODE OF BUSINESS CONDUCT AND ETHICS**

16 52. Hawaiian Electric's Code of Conduct expressly applies to the "Employees,
17 Officers and Directors" of the Company. The Code of Conduct describes the Company's "core
18 values, which are the fundamental principles that guide the conduct of [the] business." The Code
19 of Conduct requires that everyone "to whom our Code applies must take the time to read,
20 understand and apply the provisions of our Code and report any concerns."
21

22 53. The Code of Conduct further provides that the "Board of Directors and
23 management also have a responsibility to maintain a company culture based on integrity and
24 compliance with all laws [...]."
25

26 54. In a section entitled "OUR SHARED RESPONSIBILITY AND COMMITMENT,"
27 the Code of Conduct states: "Each of us has a duty to understand and live by our Code of Conduct
28

1 (“Code”) and to stand by our high standard of ethics. This commitment is our shared responsibility
 2 and our success depends on the important decisions we make each day to uphold these obligations.”

3 55. In the same section, the Code of Conduct describes its core values, which include
 4 “put[ting] safety first for our teammates and community. We take responsibility for our personal
 5 safety AND the safety of our team,” and “[w]e care about our teammates. We care about our
 6 community and everyone in it. We care about Hawai’i and its future. This means we will work
 7 together, treat each other with respect and dignity, take care of our environment, and give back to
 8 our communities.”

9 56. The Code of Conduct further emphasizes the importance of acting with integrity
 10 and makes all employees, officers, and directors accountable for, among other things: (i)
 11 “Following all laws and regulations and all Company policies and procedures;” (ii) Being truthful,
 12 fair, transparent, responsible, and accurate with customers, regulators, suppliers, shareholders,
 13 and other teammates;” (iii) “Protecting our reputation as a trusted local company;” and (iv)
 14 “Reporting concerns and violations immediately.”

15 57. The Code of Conduct also provides that “[o]ne of our responsibilities under the
 16 Code is being aware of and addressing all types of risk that affect our work, such as business risk,
 17 compliance risk, and reputation risk.” In a section entitled “CODE OF ETHICS FOR SENIOR
 18 FINANCIAL OFFICERS,” the Code of Conduct states:

19 **Compliance with Laws, Rules and Regulations**

20 As Senior Financial Officers, you must not only comply with applicable laws,
 21 rules and regulations, you also have leadership responsibilities with respect
 22 to demonstrating honesty and high ethical standards, including ethical
 23 handling of actual or apparent conflicts of interest between personal and
 24 professional relationships, fostering a work environment that encourages
 25 employees to raise concerns and promptly addressing employee compliance
 26 concerns identified by you.

27 **Disclosures in Periodic Reports and Other Public Communications**

As a public company, HEI is required to file various periodic reports with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”). It is Company policy to make full, fair, accurate, timely and understandable disclosure in compliance with all applicable laws, rules and regulations in the reports and documents that HEI files with or submits to the SEC and in other public communications made by HEI or its subsidiaries. The Company’s Senior Financial Officers are expected to use their best efforts to perform their duties in a manner intended to implement this policy.

58. Moreover, the Code of Conduct emphasizes the importance of adhering to all legal obligations, which includes maintaining accurate books and records and further emphasizes the importance of reporting violations of the Code of Conduct – a failure to do so could in itself by a violation of the Code of Conduct.

HAWAIIAN ELECTRIC’S AUDIT COMMITTEE CHARTER

59. The Audit & Risk Committee Charter was in place at all relevant times and sets forth additional responsibilities on the members of the Audit & Risk Committee (“Audit Committee”) – consisting of Defendants Connors, Flores, and Scilacci. Such additional duties include assisting the Board oversight of (i) the integrity of the Company’s financial statements; (ii) the Company’s compliance with legal and regulatory requirements; (iii) risk management and compliance systems and structure; and (iv) the internal audit function.

60. More specifically, the Audit & Risk Committee Charter states that the Audit Committee shall have the responsibility and authority to, *inter alia*:

[] Review with management and the independent auditor major issues as to the adequacy of the Company’s internal controls and any special audit steps adopted and remediation efforts undertaken in light of material control deficiencies and elicit recommendations for the improvement of such internal controls.

[] Oversee the enterprise risk management program of the Company, including by (a) reviewing and discussing the Company's major financial risk exposures and the steps management has taken to monitor and control such exposures, (b) discussing policies with respect to risk assessment and risk management, including the guidelines and policies governing the process by which risk assessment and risk management is undertaken, and (c)

periodically reporting to the Board the Committee's discussion and findings regarding risk oversight so the entire Board can be responsive to changes in the Company's risk profile.

[] Periodically review the Company's code of conduct (the "Code") and oversee the Company's program and procedures to monitor compliance with the Code, including meeting with the Compliance Officer to discuss potential Code violations that have been reported and the results of the Code compliance program and recommending to the Board proposed revisions to the Code.

61. The Audit & Risk Committee Charter also provides that the “Committee may conduct or authorize investigations into or studies of matters within the Committee’s scope of responsibilities.”

SUBSTANTIVE ALLEGATIONS

False and Misleading Statements

62. On February 28, 2019, Hawaiian Electric filed an Annual Report on Form 10-K with the SEC, reporting the Company’s financial and operating results for the year ended December 31, 2018 (the “2018 10-K”). The 2018 10-K was signed by Defendants Hazelton, Sekimura, Lau, Ito, Dahl, Fargo, Fowler, Russell, Burke, and Kane. In providing an overview of the Company’s business, the 2018 10-K stated:

Electric Utility. Hawaiian Electric and its operating utility subsidiaries, Hawaii Electric Light Company, Inc. (Hawaii Electric Light) and Maui Electric Company, Limited (Maui Electric), are regulated electric public utilities that provide essential electric service to approximately 95% of Hawaii’s population through the operation of five separate grids that serve communities on the islands of Oahu, Hawaii, and Maui, Lanai and Molokai. Hawaiian Electric’s mission is to provide innovative energy leadership for Hawaii, to meet the needs and expectations of customers and communities, and to empower them with affordable, reliable and clean energy. The goal is to create a modern, flexible and dynamic electric grid that enables an optimal mix of distributed energy resources (such as private rooftop solar and battery storage), demand response, and grid-scale resources to achieve the statutory goal of 100% renewable energy by 2045.

63. In discussing the Company’s compliance with environmental regulations, the 2018

1 10-K stated:

2 Hawaiian Electric, Hawaii Electric Light and Maui Electric [the “Utilities”],
3 like other utilities, are subject to periodic inspections by federal, state and, in
4 some cases, local environmental regulatory agencies, including agencies
5 responsible for the regulation of water quality, air quality, hazardous and
6 other waste and hazardous materials. These inspections may result in the
7 identification of items needing corrective or other action. Except as otherwise
8 disclosed in this report [. . .], the Company believes that each subsidiary has
appropriately responded to environmental conditions requiring action and
that, as a result of such actions, such environmental conditions will not have
a material adverse effect on the Company or Hawaiian Electric. [Emphasis
added].

9 64. In discussing the Company’s executive overview and strategy for its electric utility
10 segment, the 2018 10-K stated:

11 The Utilities provide electricity on all the principal islands in the state, other
12 than Kauai, to approximately 95% of the state’s population, and operate five
13 separate grids. The Utilities’ mission is to provide innovative energy
14 leadership for Hawaii, to meet the needs and expectations of customers and
15 communities, and to empower them with affordable, reliable and clean
16 energy. The goal is to create a modern, flexible, and dynamic electric grid
17 that enables an optimal mix of distributed energy resources, such as private
rooftop solar, demand response, and grid-scale resources to enable the
creation of smart, sustainable, resilient communities and achieve the statutory
goal of 100% renewable energy by 2045. [Emphasis added].

18 65. Appended to the 2018 10-K as an exhibit was a signed certification pursuant to the
19 Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 (“SOX”) by Defendants Lau, Sekimura, and Hazelton, attesting that
20 “[t]he consolidated information contained in the [2018 10-K] fairly presents, in all material
21 respects, the financial condition and results of operations of [the Company] and its subsidiaries
22 as of, and for, the periods presented in this report.”

24 66. Then, on March 25, 2019, the Company filed its Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A
25 with the SEC, solicited by Defendants Lau, Dahl, Fargo, Fowler, and Russell (“2019 Proxy
26 Statement”). The 2019 Proxy Statement solicited, inter alia: (i) the election of Defendants
27 Connors, Fargo, and Scilacci to the Board; (ii) approval of the extension of the term of the
28

1 Company's Nonemployee Director stock plan and increase the shares available for issuance
 2 thereunder; and (iii) approval of executive compensation.

3 67. The 2019 Proxy Statement contained the following information, in relevant part:

4 Culture and Our Teammates

5 We are dedicated to creating a better Hawaii. We reflect this commitment
 6 through our efforts to provide products and services that enhance our
 7 customers' lives, and in our work to protect Hawaii's unique environment,
 8 strengthen our economy, support our communities and act with integrity and
 accountability.

9 Our board oversees and works with management to find and cultivate the
 10 talent our organization needs to continue delivering value for our
 11 shareholders, customers and communities. Our employees are committed to
 the company's foundational values: integrity, excellence, aloha and safety ...

12 Our Focus on Risk Oversight

13 The board spends a significant time on risk oversight. We have a board-
 14 approved consolidated enterprise risk management system designed to
 15 identify and assess risk across the HEI enterprise and report risks to the board,
 along with proposed strategies for mitigating such risks.

16 At least annually, the board conducts a strategic planning and risk review,
 17 during which we evaluate the company's fundamental financial and business
 18 strategies and assess major risks facing the company and options to mitigate
 those risks ...

19 68. Meanwhile, the 2019 Proxy Statement failed to disclose that the Company had
 20 inadequate wildfire prevention protocols, their procedures were inadequate to meet the challenges
 21 for which they were ostensibly designed, and despite knowing the degree of risk that wildfires
 22 posed to Maui and the Company's inadequate safety protocols and procedures placed Maui at a
 23 heightened risk of devastating wildfires. Had shareholders known of these facts then they would
 24 not have approved the above-solicited proposals.

26 69. On August 2, 2019, Hawaiian Electric filed a Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q with
 27 the SEC, reporting the Company's financial and operating results for the quarter ended June 30,
 28

1 2019 (the “Q2 2019 10-Q”). The Q2 2019 10-Q was signed by Defendants Lau, Sekimura, and
 2 Hazelton. The Q2 2019 10-Q contained a substantively similar description of the Company’s
 3 executive overview and strategy for its electric utility segment as discussed above.
 4

5 70. On November 1, 2019, Hawaiian Electric filed a Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q
 6 with the SEC, reporting the Company’s financial and operating results for the quarter ended
 7 September 30, 2019 (the “Q3 2019 10-Q”). The Q3 2019 10-Q was signed by Defendants Lau,
 8 Sekimura, and Hazelton. The Q3 2019 10-Q contained a substantively similar description of the
 9 Company’s executive overview and strategy for its electric utility segment as discussed above.
 10

11 71. On February 28, 2020, Hawaiian Electric filed an Annual Report on Form 10-K
 12 with the SEC, reporting the Company’s financial and operating results for the year ended
 13 December 31, 2019 (the “2019 10-K”). The 2019 10-K was signed by Defendants Lau, Seu,
 14 Sekimura, Hazelton, Ito, Connors, Dahl, Fargo, Fowler, Kane, Johns, Russell, Burke, Powell,
 15 Zlotnicka, and Scilacci. The 2019 10-K contained substantively similar descriptions of the
 16 Company’s business, compliance with environmental regulations, and executive overview and
 17 strategy of its electric utility segment, as discussed above.
 18

19 72. In addition, in discussing the Company’s environmental, social and governance
 20 (“ESG”) risks and opportunities, the 2019 10-K stated:

21 [ESG] considerations have long been an integral part of HEI’s strategy to be
 22 a “catalyst for a better Hawaii” for the benefit of all stakeholders. The
 23 Company firmly believes that effective management of its ESG risks and
 24 opportunities creates a strategic business advantage; improves the lives of our
 25 employees, through focus on employee health, wellness, safety,
 26 empowerment and increased engagement; improves the sustainability, well-
 being and resilience of our communities, the state and the environment; and
 ultimately leads to sustained long-term value creation for our investors.

27 The [Hawaiian Electric] Board of Directors is responsible for the oversight
 28 of the Company’s enterprise risk management (ERM) programs, which are
 designed to address all material risks and opportunities, including ESG

1 considerations. The Board of Directors has delegated the day-to-day
2 responsibility to execute on these action plans to management. The Company
3 believes ESG considerations are embedded in our daily actions and drive how
we engage with our employees, communities, and shareholders.

4 The Company intends to leverage the frameworks developed by the Task
5 Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosure (TCFD) and the Sustainability
6 Accounting Standards Board (SASB) to communicate our approach and
progress on ESG matters in future filings.

7 We are committed to achieving a renewable, sustainable energy future,
8 providing leadership in corporate social responsibility, and adhering to
governance best practices.

9 73. Appended to the 2019 10-K as an exhibit was a signed certification pursuant to
10 SOX by Defendants Lau, Seu, Sekimura, and Hazelton, attesting that “[t]he consolidated
11 information contained in the [2019 10-K] fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial
12 condition and results of operations of [the Company] and its subsidiaries as of, and for, the periods
13 presented in this report.”
14

15 74. Then, on March 26, 2020, the Company filed its Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A
16 with the SEC, solicited by Defendants Lau, Connors, Dahl, Fargo, Fowler, Kane, Powell, Russell,
17 Scilacci, and Zlotnicka (the “2020 Proxy Statement”). The 2020 Proxy Statement solicited, inter
18 alia: (i) the election of Defendants Fowler, Russell, Zlotnicka, and Kane to the Board; and (ii)
19 approval of executive compensation.
20

21 75. The 2020 Proxy Statement contained the following information, in relevant part:

22 **Board Oversight of Strategy and Risk Management: Investing in**
23 **Hawaii’s Sustainable Future**

24 Sustainability, or environment, social and governance (ESG), considerations
25 have long been an integral part of HEI’s strategy to be a “catalyst for a better
26 Hawaii.” We firmly believe that effective management of ESG risks and
27 opportunities creates a strategic business advantage; improves the
28 sustainability, well-being and resilience of our communities, our state and our
environment; and leads to sustained long-term value creation for our
investors.

1 The Board is responsible for the oversight of HEI's enterprise risk
2 management (ERM) programs, which are designed to address all material
3 risks and opportunities, including ESG considerations. [...]

4 This past year, our Board prioritized integrating sustainability even further
5 into our governance structures, decision-making processes and reporting. We
6 focused our strategic retreat on climate change and other ESG factors relevant
7 to our companies. Since then, the HEI companies have been further
8 integrating climate change and ESG factors into strategic planning and ERM
9 processes.

10 76. On May 5, 2020, Hawaiian Electric filed a Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q with
11 the SEC, reporting the Company's financial and operating results for the quarter ended March 31,
12 2020 (the "Q1 2020 10-Q"). The Q1 2020 10-Q was signed by Defendants Lau, Seu, Sekimura,
13 and Hazelton. The Q1 2020 10-Q contained a substantively similar description of the Company's
14 executive overview and strategy for its electric utility segment as discussed above.

15 77. On August 6, 2020, Hawaiian Electric filed a Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q with
16 the SEC, reporting the Company's financial and operating results for the quarter ended June 30,
17 2020 (the "Q2 2020 10-Q"). The Q2 2020 10-Q was signed by Defendants Lau, Seu, Sekimura,
18 and Hazelton. The Q2 2020 10-Q contained a substantively similar description of the Company's
19 executive overview and strategy for its electric utility segment as discussed above.

20 78. On September 15, 2020, Hawaiian Electric issued a press release announcing that
21 the Company had released its first ESG report (the "2019 ESG Report"). The press release stated:

22 Hawaiian Electric [...] today released its first consolidated report describing
23 its policies, actions and performance data with respect to [ESG] and
24 sustainability-related matters. Such reports are frequently referred to as
25 "ESG" reports and are becoming increasingly common as investors seek to
26 understand how public companies are impacting the environment and society,
27 as well as potential opportunities and risks to companies' long-term financial
28 and operational strength.

"We're proud to issue our first consolidated [Hawaiian Electric] ESG report
to help customers, employees, investors and other stakeholders understand
how [Hawaiian Electric's] strategies and operations advance ESG outcomes
and create long-term value for all stakeholders," said [Defendant Lau.]

1 “While this is our first consolidated [Hawaiian Electric] ESG report, ESG
 2 principles and sustainability have long been fundamental values of [Hawaiian
 3 Electric], so much so that we’ve often said that ESG is in our DNA. With all
 4 of our operations in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, we know that our
 5 company’ long-term health is inextricably linked with the strength of the
 6 economy, communities, and environment of the Hawaiian Islands. This
 linkage is all the more clear in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, and
 we’re working hard to help our customers, employees and communities
 through this period and to help our economy recover,” said Lau.

7 79. That same day, Hawaiian Electric published its 2019 ESG Report. In discussing
 8 sustainability governance, the 2019 ESG Report stated:

9 We see ESG-related strategies and risks as having the same potential as other
 10 strategies and risks to impact long-term value creation. As such, we’ve
 11 integrated material ESG factors into company governance structures and
 12 management activities. Just like other strategies and risks, we’re identifying,
 measuring, managing and assigning accountability for material ESG issues.

13 Company strategies are overseen by the Board as a whole and are managed
 14 through our strategic planning and oversight process. The Board provides
 15 guidance on strategic priorities and plans, including at its annual strategic
 retreat, and approves the budget to allocate resources for agreed upon
 strategies.

16 Our full Board reviews and provides input on major risks for our companies
 17 and determines our risk appetite. This includes risks relating to safety and
 18 potential physical risk to utility infrastructure or to bank loan collateral from
 19 climate change impacts. The [Hawaiian Electric] Audit & Risk Committee
 20 assists the Board in its risk oversight role by overseeing our Enterprise Risk
 21 Management (ERM) program, which is designed to identify and assess key
 22 risks across the [Hawaiian Electric] enterprise and report such risks to the
 Board, along with strategies for mitigating such risks. The Hawaiian Electric
 Audit & Risk Committee and the ASB Audit Committee and Risk Committee
 assist in risk oversight of those subsidiaries.

23 The [Hawaiian Electric] Nominating & Corporate Governance Committee
 24 (NCG Committee) reviews strategies and risks involving governance and
 25 assesses leadership development and succession planning to ensure we have
 26 the right leadership to execute our strategies. The role of the NCG Committee
 has recently expanded to include review of human capital management and
 ensuring ESG oversight. [Emphasis added].

27 80. Further in discussing environmental commitment and management, the 2019 ESG
 28 Report stated:

Our customers and communities expect that through our daily operations we will protect our air and water, reduce waste, and conserve natural resources. More than 30 environmental professionals, including scientists, engineers, chemists, and a wildlife biologist work full-time at our company to ensure that employees and external contractors understand and comply with all applicable environmental laws, regulations, permitting requirements and procedures regarding air and water quality, noise control, hazardous materials, and protected species.

Our Environmental Division's mission is to ensure that the company fulfills its kuleana, responsibility, to protect Hawai'i's unique environment through environmental compliance and stewardship and timely, innovative, cost-effective Environmental Management Programs and Standard Operating Procedures, which are comprehensive and formalized.

Critical elements of the programs and procedures include year-round risk and opportunities assessment, continuous improvement, compliance management and tracking, air and water quality monitoring, and extensive environmental compliance training in air quality requirements, spill prevention control and countermeasures, storm water runoff, proper handling and disposal of hazardous materials, and protected species awareness and protection. All contractors and subcontractors working at Hawaiian Electric sites are required to attend Contractor Environmental Orientation training, conducted by our environmental staff.

Internal audits are conducted to verify compliance with environmental permits, regulations and policies, and fulfill corporate risk management requirements. Our internal Corporate Audit Team audits the Environmental Division at least once every three years. Audit reports are used to create Management Action Plans, ensuring that highest risk items are given priority and addressed in a timely manner. The Environmental Division also performs periodic environmental compliance audits of our company facilities to identify areas for improvement.

81. In discussing the Company's purported commitment to safety, the 2019 ESG Report stated:

Safety is our number one priority at Hawaiian Electric. Our goal is to provide a safe and healthy work environment, where every employee makes safety a central part of his or her job.

Our safety commitment is to provide and support:

- Managerial responsibility for health and safety issues
- Procedures for hazard identification and safety risk assessment
- Operating health and safety guidelines, procedures, and policies

- Emergency planning and preparedness procedures
- Safety performance monitoring, measurement, and reporting
- Internal and external health and safety audits. [Emphasis added].

82. On November 6, 2020, Hawaiian Electric filed a Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q with the SEC, reporting the Company's financial and operating results for the quarter ended September 30, 2020 (the "Q3 2020 10-Q"). The Q3 2020 10-Q was signed by Defendants Lau, Seu, Sekimura, and Hazelton. The Q3 2020 10-Q contained a substantively similar description of the Company's executive overview and strategy for its electric utility segment as discussed above.

83. On February 26, 2021, Hawaiian Electric filed an Annual Report on Form 10-K with the SEC, reporting the Company's financial and operating results for the year ended December 31, 2020 (the "2020 10-K"). The 2020 10-K was signed by Defendants Lau, Seu, Sekimura, Johns, Ajello, Hazelton, Ito, Connors, Dahl, Fargo, Fowler, Kane, Pakkala, Russell, Burke, Powell, Zlotnicka, and Scilacci. The 2020 10-K contained substantively similar descriptions of the Company's business, compliance with environmental regulations, executive overview and strategy of its electric utility segment, and purported commitment to ESG principles as discussed above.

84. Appended to the 2020 10-K as an exhibit was a signed certification pursuant to SOX by Defendants Lau, Seu, Sekimura, and Hazelton, attesting that "[t]he consolidated information contained in the [2020 10-K] fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of [the Company] and its subsidiaries as of, and for, the periods presented in this report."

85. Then, on March 26, 2021, the Company filed its Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A with the SEC, solicited by Defendants Lau, Connors, Dahl, Fargo, Fowler, Kane, Powell, Russell, Scilacci, and Zlotnicka (the "2021 Proxy Statement"). The 2021 Proxy Statement solicited, inter

1 alia: (i) election of Defendants Dahl, Kane, and Lau to the Board; and (ii) approval of executive
2 compensation.

3 86. The 2021 Proxy Statement contained the following information, in relevant part:

4 Board Oversight of ESG Strategy and Risk Management

5 We firmly believe that effective management of ESG risks and opportunities
6 creates a strategic advantage; improves the sustainability, well-being and
7 resilience of our communities, our economy and our environment; and leads
8 to sustained long-term value creation for our investors.

9 [...]

10 In 2020, our Board fully integrated material ESG factors into the company's
11 governance structures and oversight of management activities. We expanded
12 the responsibilities of the Nominating & Corporate Governance Committee
13 to include overseeing human capital management and ensuring all material
14 ESG areas have appropriate oversight.

15 [...]

16 The new performance-based regulation (PBR) framework, developed with
17 our regulators and stakeholders, further incentivizes the utility to achieve
18 ESG outcomes relating to increasing renewable energy, facilitating customer
19 participation in the clean energy transition, modernizing our grid and
20 advancing affordability and customer equity...

21 87. On April 22, 2021, Hawaiian Electric issued a press release announcing that the
22 Company had issued a consolidated ESG report (the "2020 ESG Report"). The press release
23 stated:

24 Hawaiian Electric [. . .] today released an updated consolidated report
25 describing its policies, actions and performance with respect to a number of
26 [ESG] matters, including climate-related risks and opportunities.

27 ***

28 "With all of our operations in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, we know that
our company's long-term health is inextricably linked with the strength of the
economy, communities, and environment of the Hawaiian Islands. That's
why ESG and sustainability considerations are at the core of our mission to
be a catalyst for a better Hawai'i," said [Defendant] Lau[.]

1 “Since issuing our inaugural ESG report last fall, we have continued our
2 cross-enterprise work to further integrate ESG and climate-related factors
3 into our governance, strategies, risk management and reporting. This second
4 consolidated ESG report provides an update on our ESG efforts and reflects
5 our commitment to continuous improvement, transparency and
6 accountability surrounding these very important issues,” said Lau.

7 88. That same day, Hawaiian Electric published its 2020 ESG Report. The 2020 ESG
8 Report contained substantively similar descriptions of the Company’s policies regarding
9 sustainability governance and risk management, environmental management, and purported
10 commitment to safety as discussed above.

11 89. On May 10, 2021, Hawaiian Electric filed a Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q with
12 the SEC, reporting the Company’s financial and operating results for the quarter ended March 31,
13 2021 (the “Q1 2021 10-Q”). The Q1 2021 10-Q was signed by Defendants Lau, Seu, Sekimura,
14 and Hazelton. The Q1 2021 10-Q contained a substantively similar description of the Company’s
15 executive overview and strategy for its electric utility segment as discussed above.

16 90. On August 9, 2021, Hawaiian Electric filed a Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q with
17 the SEC, reporting the Company’s financial and operating results for the quarter ended June 30,
18 2021 (the “Q2 2021 10-Q”). The Q2 2021 10-Q was signed by Defendants Lau, Seu, Sekimura,
19 and Hazelton. The Q2 2021 10-Q contained a substantively similar description of the Company’s
20 executive overview and strategy for its electric utility segment as discussed above.

21 91. On November 5, 2021, Hawaiian Electric filed a Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q
22 with the SEC, reporting the Company’s financial and operating results for the quarter ended
23 September 30, 2021 (the “Q3 2021 10-Q”). The Q3 2021 10-Q was signed by Defendants Lau,
24 Seu, Sekimura, and Hazelton. The Q3 2021 10-Q contained a substantively similar description of
25 the Company’s executive overview and strategy for its electric utility segment as discussed above.
26

27 92. On February 25, 2022, Hawaiian Electric filed an Annual Report on Form 10-K
28

1 with the SEC, reporting the Company’s financial and operating results for the year ended
 2 December 31, 2021 (the “2021 10-K”). The 2021 10-K was signed by Defendants Seu, Hazelton,
 3 Sekimura, Johns, Ajello, Kimura, Ito, Connors, Dahl, Fargo, Flores, Fowler, Kane, Taniguchi,
 4 Pakkala, Russell, Burke, and Scilacci. The 2021 10-K contained substantively similar descriptions
 5 of the Company’s business, compliance with environmental regulations, executive overview and
 6 strategy of its electric utility segment, and purported commitment to ESG principles as discussed
 7 above.
 8

9 93. Appended to the 2021 10-K as an exhibit was a signed certification pursuant to
 10 SOX by Defendants Seu, Sekimura, Kimura, and Hazelton, attesting that “[t]he consolidated
 11 information contained in the [2021 10-K] fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial
 12 condition and results of operations of [the Company] and its subsidiaries as of, and for, the periods
 13 presented in this report.”
 14

15 94. On March 18, 2022 the Company filed its Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A with
 16 the SEC, solicited by Defendants Connors, Dahl, Fargo, Flores, Fowler, Kane, Russell, Scilacci,
 17 and Seu (the “2022 Proxy Statement”). The 2022 Proxy Statement solicited, inter alia: (i) the
 18 election of Defendants Connors, Dahl, Fargo, Flores, Kane, Scilacci, and Seu to the Board; and
 19 (ii) approval of executive compensation.
 20

21 95. The 2022 Proxy Statement contained the following information, in relevant part:
 22
 23 Board Oversight of Strategy and Risk Management

24 Effective management of risks and opportunities improves the sustainability,
 25 well-being and resilience of our communities, our state and our environment
 [...]
 26

27 As a Board, we see ESG-related strategies and risks as having the same
 28 potential as other strategies and risks to impact long-term value creation. As
 a result, we deliberately composed our Board to ensure we have directors who
 have direct experience related to ESG topics, including renewable energy,

climate change strategy and environmental management.

Our full Board reviews and provides input on our strategies and major risks and determines our risk appetite. This includes risks relating to safety, other human capital considerations and climate change.

[] Hawaiian Electric – Focused on achieving aggressive climate goals in a way that is affordable, reliable and resilient for our customers.

96. On April 12, 2022, Hawaiian Electric issued a press release announcing that the Company had issued a consolidated ESG report (the “2021 ESG Report”). The press release quoted Defendant Seu, stating: “[o]ur ESG progress demonstrates our commitment not only to operating a sustainable business, but also to building a sustainable Hawai‘i in which our children and grandchildren, our communities, our customers and our fellow employees will thrive together now and for generations to come,” and “[o]ur company has been serving Hawai‘i for over 130 years, and this deep-felt mindset comes naturally to us as a longstanding business in our island state. The alignment between ESG principles, state policy in Hawaii, community expectations, and our goals as a company has never been stronger.”

97. That same day, Hawaiian Electric published the 2021 ESG Report. The 2021 ESG Report contained substantively similar descriptions of the Company’s policies regarding sustainability governance and risk management, environmental management, and purported commitment to safety as discussed above.

98. In addition, in discussing reliability and resilience, the 2021 ESG Report stated:

We are focused on ensuring the resilience of our system. Our efforts include:

- Using advanced climate risk modeling to assess risks and inform our planning process
- Deploying advanced meters and other technologies that allow us to respond more quickly to system interruptions

- 1 • Developing damage prediction modeling to estimate damage and
2 outages from severe natural event scenarios in order to support resilience
3 planning efforts
- 4 • Developing plans for community microgrids and/or critical customer
5 hubs to be able to quickly restore power to critical customers
- 6 • Building more modern and efficient power plants inland, away from the
7 coastline. An example is the Schofield Generating Station, which was
8 completed and brought online in 2018. The biofuel-capable generating
9 facility is located on military property inland at a higher elevation. It can be
10 isolated to serve the military base and other critical facilities in the event of
11 an emergency, and feeds electricity to the grid that serves all O'ahu customers
12 the rest of the time.
- 13 • Collaborating with key partners, such as military, to supply energy to
14 customers during an emergency
- 15 • Engaging with stakeholders to incorporate resilience needs and priorities
16 through our Integrated Grid Planning process, including its Resilience
17 Working Group.

18 ***

19 We continually maintain and upgrade our transmission and distribution
20 system to ensure seamless delivery of power to our customers. Day-to-day
21 maintenance is a key part of keeping the grid resilient. We regularly inspect
22 our poles, lines, and other equipment, and work to replace and upgrade aging
23 and faulty equipment before failures happen. We regularly trim the
24 vegetation around our equipment, as many power outages during high winds
25 and storms are due to tree branches or other vegetation falling onto power
26 lines. We have also replaced traditional power lines with insulated conductor
27 systems to improve reliability and resilience in targeted areas prone to
28 vegetation-related outages.

We're working to reduce the impact of outages by adding devices to section
off parts of the grid to reduce the number of customers affected by an outage.
We have also completed distribution protection studies to improve safety and
mitigate risk on each of the five islands we serve.

We measure and report reliability performance using metrics commonly used
in the electric utility industry regarding the duration and frequency of power
interruptions for customers.

Both the company (through performance incentives) and executives (through
executive compensation goals) have financial incentives to promote strong
reliability performance.

We are working on a multi-year plan and PUC application focused on foundational investments in transmission and distribution system resilience. Our proposed plan will include:

- Strengthening our most critical transmission lines to withstand extreme winds
- Hardening distribution lines serving critical community lifeline facilities such as hospitals, military sites, communications infrastructure, water and wastewater facilities, ports and emergency response facilities
- Upgrading specific poles to improve restoration after a storm or hurricane
- Moving lines underground in targeted areas prone to vegetation-related damage
- Removing large trees that are at risk of falling into lines during a storm
- Strengthening lines and deploying devices to help prevent and respond to wildfires
- Installing equipment in select substations to reduce flood impacts. [Emphasis added].

99. In discussing wildfire prevention and mitigation, the 2021 ESG Report stated:

Episodic drought, a warming climate and the expansion of nonnative fire-prone grasses and shrubs has led to an increase in wildfires in Hawai'i. 98% of wildfires in Hawai'i are human caused and the threat to communities is high year-round. In addition to the utility's own wildfire mitigation plans, we have joined with community members and wildfire collaborators to help prevent and mitigate wildfires in known hot spots across our service areas. As members of the Wai'anae Wildfire Hui in West O'ahu and Pacific Fire Exchange on Maui, we meet monthly to share ideas and discuss priority projects. We support the Hawai'i Wildfire Management Organization on Hawai'i Island, which works with communities across the state on wildfire planning, prevention and mitigation activities. By raising awareness, implementing key land management practices and collaborating on projects, these organizations are working to reduce the wildfire risk in Hawai'i and build strong, resilient communities.

100. On May 9, 2022, Hawaiian Electric filed a Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q with the SEC, reporting the Company's financial and operating results for the quarter ended March 31, 2022 (the "Q1 2022 10-Q"). The Q1 2022 10-Q was signed by Defendants Seu, Sekimura,

1 Kimura, and Hazelton. The Q1 2022 10-Q contained a substantively similar description of the
2 Company's executive overview and strategy for its electric utility segment as discussed above.

3 101. On August 8, 2022, Hawaiian Electric filed a Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q with
4 the SEC, reporting the Company's financial and operating results for the quarter ended June 30,
5 2022 (the "Q2 2022 10-Q"). The Q2 2022 10-Q was signed by Defendants Seu, Sekimura,
6 Kimura, and Ito. The Q2 2022 10-Q contained a substantively similar description of the
7 Company's executive overview and strategy for its electric utility segment as discussed above.
8

9 102. On November 7, 2022, Hawaiian Electric filed a Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q
10 with the SEC, reporting the Company's financial and operating results for the quarter ended
11 September 30, 2022 (the "Q3 2022 10-Q"). The Q3 2022 10-Q was signed by Defendants Seu,
12 Sekimura, Kimura, and Ito. The Q3 2022 10-Q contained a substantively similar description of
13 the Company's executive overview and strategy for its electric utility segment as discussed above.
14

15 103. The Individual Defendants failed to disclose that, *inter alia*, Hawaiian Electric's
16 wildfire prevention and safety protocols and procedures were inadequate to meet the challenges
17 for which they were ostensibly designed and despite knowing the degree of risk that wildfires
18 posed to Maui and the Company's inadequate safety protocols and procedures placed Maui at a
19 heightened risk of devastating wildfires, as well as the fact that the Company did not maintain its
20 equipment and in fact had old, decaying equipment that went without necessary maintenance.
21

22 104. On February 27, 2023, Hawaiian Electric filed an Annual Report on Form 10-K
23 with the SEC, reporting the Company's financial and operating results for the year ended
24 December 31, 2022 (the "2022 10-K"). The 2022 10-K was signed by Defendants Seu, Ito,
25 Sekimura, Kimura, Johns, Ajello, Connors, Dahl, Fargo, Flores, Fowler, Kane, Otani, Kipp,
26 Pakkala, Taniguchi, Russell, Kennedy, and Scilacci. The 2022 10-K contained substantively
27
28

1 similar descriptions of the Company’s business, compliance with environmental regulations,
 2 executive overview and strategy of its electric utility segment, and purported commitment to ESG
 3 principles, as discussed above.

4
 5 105. Appended to the 2022 10-K as an exhibit was a signed certification pursuant to
 6 SOX by Defendants Seu, Sekimura, Kimura, and Ito, attesting that “[t]he consolidated
 7 information contained in the [2022 10-K] fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial
 8 condition and results of operations of [the Company] and its subsidiaries as of, and for, the periods
 9 presented in this report.”

10
 11 106. On March 24, 2023 the Company filed its Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A with
 12 the SEC, solicited by Defendants Connors, Dahl, Fargo, Flores, Fowler, Kane, Kennedy, Otani,
 13 Russell, Scilacci, and Seu (the “2023 Proxy Statement”). The 2023 Proxy Statement solicited,
 14 inter alia: (i) the election of Defendants Connors, Dahl, Fargo, Flores, Fowler, Kane, Kennedy,
 15 Otani, Scilacci, and Seu to the Board; and (ii) approval of executive compensation.

16
 17 107. The 2023 Proxy Statement contained the following information, in relevant part:

18 Board Oversight of Strategy and Risk Management

19 Effective management of risks and opportunities leads to sustained long-term
 20 value creation for our investors and improves the sustainability, well-being
 and resilience of our communities, our state and our environment.

21 Our full Board reviews and provides input on our strategies and major risks
 22 and determines our risk appetite. This includes risks relating to a number of
 23 topics, including but not limited to, safety, other human capital considerations
 and climate change. [...]

24 As a Board, we consider ESG-related strategies and risks in the context of
 25 our overall company strategies and risks. As such, we have integrated
 26 oversight of ESG risks and opportunities into our existing Board and
 27 committee responsibilities. In considering our Board composition, we also
 28 ensure we have directors who have direct experience related to ESG topics
 relevant to our strategies, including renewable energy, climate change
 strategy and environmental management.

HEI's Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) function is principally responsible for identifying and monitoring risk at the holding company and its subsidiaries, and for reporting on high-risk areas to the Board and designated Board committees. As a result, all HEI directors, including those who serve on the Compensation & Human Capital Management Committee, are apprised of risks that could reasonably be expected to have a material adverse effect on HEI.

108. On April 4, 2023, Hawaiian Electric issued a press release announcing that the Company had released its latest ESG report (the "2022 ESG Report"). The press release stated:

Hawaiian Electric [. . .] today announced the publication of its newest consolidated report describing its updated policies, actions and performance for 2022 with respect to a range of environmental, social and governance (ESG) matters. This is HEI's fourth annual ESG report.

"Our [Hawaiian Electric] family of companies is guided by a common purpose to create a better Hawai'i – one that is thriving economically, environmentally, culturally and socially," said [Defendant] Seu[.] "We believe this purpose serves the long-term interests of all of our stakeholders – it inspires us to act in ways that allow us not simply to advance, but to leap forward into a future that's brighter for us all."

The theme of HEI's latest ESG report is "Laulima," which translates to "many hands working together." The report details the work of all of the [Hawaiian Electric] companies in 2022 toward their common purpose, including in areas such as decarbonization; economic health and affordability; reliability and resilience diversity, equity and inclusion; and human capital management.

109. That same day, Hawaiian Electric published its 2022 ESG Report. The 2022 ESG Report contained substantively similar descriptions of the Company's policies regarding sustainability governance and risk management, environmental management, purported commitment to safety, reliability and resilience, and wildfire prevention and mitigation, as discussed above.

110. On May 9, 2023, Hawaiian Electric filed a Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q with the SEC, reporting the Company's financial and operating results for the quarter ended March 31,

1 2023 (the “Q1 2023 10-Q”). The Q1 2023 10-Q was signed by Defendants Seu, Sekimura,
2 Kimura, and Ito. The Q1 2023 10-Q contained a substantively similar description of the
3 Company’s executive overview and strategy for its electric utility segment as discussed above.
4

5 111. On August 7, 2023, Hawaiian Electric filed a Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q with
6 the SEC, reporting the Company’s financial and operating results for the quarter ended June 30,
7 2023 (the “Q2 2023 10-Q”). The Q2 2023 10-Q was signed by Defendants Seu, Sekimura,
8 Kimura, and Ito. The Q2 2023 10-Q contained a substantively similar description of the
9 Company’s executive overview and strategy for its electric utility segment as discussed above.
10

11 112. The above-referenced statements were materially false and misleading because
12 Defendants made false and/or misleading statements, as well as failed to disclose material adverse
13 facts about the Company’s business, operations, and prospects. Specifically, Defendants made
14 false and/or misleading statements and/or failed to disclose that: (i) Hawaiian Electric’s wildfire
15 prevention and safety protocols and procedures were inadequate to meet the challenges for which
16 they were ostensibly designed; (ii) accordingly, despite knowing the degree of risk that wildfires
17 posed to Maui, the Company’s inadequate safety protocols and procedures placed Maui at a
18 heightened risk of devastating wildfires; (iii) the fact that the Company did not maintain its
19 equipment and in fact had old, decaying equipment that went without necessary maintenance; and
20 (iv) as a result, the Company’s public statements were materially false and misleading at all
21 relevant times.
22
23

24 ***The Truth Emerges***

25 113. On August 8, 2023, a wildfire broke out in Maui when power lines belonging to
26 Hawaiian Electric fell down in high winds which ultimately led to at least 97 deaths and between
27 \$4 billion to \$6 billion in losses from property damage and business interruption. Following this,
28

1 the Individual Defendants’ false and misleading statements began to unravel when it became
2 apparent that Hawaiian Electric’s wildfire prevention and safety protocols were inadequate, that
3 the Individual Defendants knew Hawaiian Electric’s protocols were in adequate, and that the
4 Individual Defendants failed to make Hawaiian Electric’s protocols adequate, thus placing Maui
5 and its citizens at a heightened risk of wildfires.
6

7 114. On August 12, 2023, news outlets began reporting that Hawaiian Electric did not
8 have a plan to shut off power in advance of the Hawaii wildfires. For example, in an article entitled
9 “Hawaii utility faces scrutiny for not cutting power to reduce fire risks,” the *Washington Post*
10 stated:
11

12 Four days before fast-moving brush fires engulfed parts of Maui, weather
13 forecasters warned authorities that powerful wind gusts would trigger
14 dangerous fire conditions across much of the island and Hawaii.

15 The state’s electric utility responded with some preemptive steps but did not
16 use what is widely regarded as the most aggressive but effective safety
17 measure: shutting down the power.

18 Hawaiian Electric, the utility that oversees Maui Electric and provides service
19 to 95 percent of the state’s residents, did not deploy what’s known as a
20 “public power shutoff plan,” which involves intentionally cutting off
21 electricity to areas where big wind events could spark fires. A number of
22 states, including California, have increasingly adopted this safety strategy
23 after what were then the nation’s most destructive and deadliest modern fires,
24 in 2017 and 2018.

25 Hawaiian Electric was aware that a power shut-off was an effective strategy,
26 documents show, but had not adopted it as part of its fire mitigation plans,
27 according to the company and two former power and energy officials
28 interviewed by The Washington Post. Nor, in the face of predicted dangerous
winds, did it act on its own, utility officials said, fearing uncertain
consequences.

The decision to avoid shutting off power is reflective of the utility’s struggles
to bolster its aging and vulnerable infrastructure against wildfires, said
Jennifer Potter, who lives in Lahaina and was a member of the Hawaii Public
Utilities Commission until just nine months ago.

“They were not as proactive as they should have been,” Potter said about

Hawaiian Electric's fire-prevention planning, adding that there had not been any real meaningful action to "address some of those inadequacies in terms of wildfire." Doug McLeod, a former energy commissioner for Maui County, also said the utility was aware of the need for a regular shut-down system and to bury lines, especially given the "number of close calls in the past."

Earlier this week, high winds caused widespread damage to utility infrastructure. The intense gusts knocked down about 30 utility poles across the region, many onto trees and roads, complicating evacuations, according to Maui County Mayor Richard Bissen. He confirmed that some electrical lines were energized when they hit the ground.

115. On this news, Hawaiian Electric's stock price fell \$10.94 per share, or 33.76%, to close at \$21.46 per share on August 14, 2023.

116. Then, on August 16, 2023, *The Wall Street Journal* published an article entitled "Hawaiian Electric Is in Talks With Restructuring Firms." The article stated:

Hawaiian Electric is speaking with firms that specialize in restructuring advisory work, exploring options to address the electric utility's financial and legal challenges arising from the Maui wildfires, said people familiar with the matter.

Hawaiian Electric is facing a sell off in its stock and bonds, and has been hit with lawsuits alleging that its actions both before and during the wildfires exacerbated the devastation Maui residents have suffered.

The company is in discussions over the strategies it can pursue and to determine whether it needs to hire legal and financial advisers, the people said.

On Thursday evening, a day after the publication of this report, a company spokesperson said: "Like any company in this situation would do, and as we do in the normal course of business, we are seeking advice from experts—the goal is not to restructure the company but to endure as a financially strong utility that Maui and this state need."

More customer lawsuits are expected in coming weeks to increase the costs of defending and settling claims for Hawaiian Electric just as its access to financing is being threatened.

S&P Global Ratings downgraded Hawaiian Electric's credit rating to junk on Tuesday, saying the wildfires destroyed a significant segment of the company's customer base and will take many years to restore. S&P also said that wildfire lawsuits seeking compensation for injuries, deaths and property

1 damage will weigh on the company's credit quality.

2 117. On August 17, 2023, The Wall Street Journal published an article entitled
3 "Hawaiian Electric Knew of Wildfire Threat, but Waited Years to Act." The article stated:

4 During the 2019 wildfire season, one of the worst Maui had ever seen,
5 Hawaiian Electric concluded that it needed to do far more to prevent its power
6 lines from emitting sparks.

7 The utility examined California's plans to reduce fires ignited by power lines,
8 started flying drones over its territory and vowed to take steps to protect its
equipment and its customers from the threat of fire.

9 Nearly four years later, the company has completed little such work. Between
10 2019 and 2022, it invested less than \$245,000 on wildfire-specific projects
11 on the island, regulatory filings show. It didn't seek state approval to raise
12 rates to pay for broad wildfire-safety improvements until 2022, and has yet
to receive it.

13 Now, the company is facing scrutiny, litigation and a financial crisis over
14 indications that its power lines might have played a role in igniting the
15 deadliest U.S. wildfire in more than a century. The blaze has caused at least
110 deaths destroyed the historic town of Lahaina and resulted in an
estimated billions of dollars in damage.

16 The fire's cause hasn't been determined, but mounting evidence suggests the
17 utility's equipment was involved. One video taken by a resident shows a
18 downed power line igniting dry grass along a road near Lahaina. A firm that
19 monitors grid sensors reported dozens of electrical disruptions in the hours
before the fire began, including one that coincided in time with video footage
of a flash of light from power lines.

20 Hawaiian Electric said it would investigate any role its infrastructure may
21 have played and cooperate with a separate probe into the fire launched last
22 week by the Hawaii attorney general.

23 "We all believe it's important to understand what happened. And I think we
24 all believe it's important to make sure it doesn't happen again," said Shelee
Kimura, Hawaiian Electric's chief executive.

25 In response to questions about its wildfire-mitigation spending, a spokesman
26 for Hawaiian Electric said the company reduces wildfire risk through its
27 routine utility work, including trimming or removing trees and upgrading,
replacing and inspecting equipment. It said it has spent about \$84 million on
28 maintenance and tree work in Maui County since 2018.

The utility has long been a force in Hawaii politics and business. In the wake of the fire, its finances are reeling. Its stock has plunged 49% this week, and its credit rating was downgraded to junk by S&P.

At the end of 2019, Hawaiian Electric issued a press release about wildfire risk. It said it would install heavier, insulated conductors on Maui and Oahu to minimize the risk of sparks when winds picked up, as well as technology to detect disruptions when the conductors came into contact with vegetation or each other. It said it would apply fire retardant on poles in risky areas and consider installing cameras and other devices to monitor weather conditions during fire season.

In filings over the next two years with the Hawaii Public Utilities Commission, which is tasked with approving utility projects and spending, the company made only passing reference to wildfire mitigation.

118. Following the publications of The Wall Street Journal articles, Hawaiian Electric's stock price fell \$2.54 per share, or 17.43% to close at \$12.03 per share on August 17, 2023.

119. On August 27, 2023, Hawaii Electric issued a press release wherein the Company admitted that its electrical equipment started the Maui wildfire, stating "[a] fire at 6:30 a.m. (the 'Morning Fire') appears to have been caused by power lines that fell in high winds." The Company, however, disclaimed any responsibility for the second fire that ignited later that same day, despite the fire breaking out in the same area as the Morning Fire and the evidence pointing to the second fire being a continuation of the Morning Fire caused by the Company.

120. As a result of the foregoing, the Company's share price has suffered an immense fall from a Relevant Period high of \$55.15 on March 18, 2020 to \$13.27 on December 6, 2023, representing a total 75.94% decrease in the Company's share price as a result of the wrongdoing as alleged herein.

The Individual Defendants' Knowledge

121. Throughout the Relevant Period, the Individual Defendants knew that Hawaiian Electric's wildfire prevention and safety protocols and procedures were inadequate to meet the

1 challenges for which they were ostensibly designed and despite knowing the degree of risk that
2 wildfires posed to Maui, the Company's inadequate safety protocols and procedures placed Maui
3 at a heightened risk of devastating wildfire. Despite their knowledge, the Individual Defendants
4 continued to issue the above false and misleading statements and failed to omit facts necessary to
5 make their statements not false and misleading.
6

7 122. In 2018, and the years following, the Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization
8 identified Lahaina as a hotspot for potential wildfires due to the area's dry, windy, and hot
9 characteristics. Moreover, in 2020, Lahaina was identified as a High-Risk Wildfire Area in the
10 Maui County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update.
11

12 123. The Individual Defendants knew that the Company's electrical infrastructure was
13 in dire need of repair as in 2019, the Company concluded that it needed to do more to prevent its
14 powerlines from emitting sparks.
15

16 124. The Individual Defendants also knew that the Company did not use any wildfire
17 prevention technologies on its T&D components, such as covered conductors, underground
18 powerlines, composite powerlines, and non-expulsion fuses, thus increasing the risk of causing a
19 wildfire.
20

21 125. The Individual Defendants also knew that the Company had caused wildfires on
22 the island previously. In August 2018, a fallen powerline started a fire which covered 2,000 acres
23 and damaged over 20 homes. Moreover, the Individual Defendants knew, or ought to have known,
24 of previous fires caused by other electrical utility companies across the country, including Pacific,
25 Gas & Electric Company ("PG&E") in California, PacifiCorp in Oregon, and SoCal Edison in
26 California.
27

28 126. According to a 2019 filing by the Company, its 60,000 poles were vulnerable due

1 to their age and the fact that Hawaii is in a “severe wood decay hazard zone.” The 2019 filing
2 admitted that the Company had not replaced the aged wooden poles and acknowledged the
3 “serious public hazard” if the poles failed. These poles, according to Maui News, were built to an
4 “obsolete 1960’s standard” and were leaning and near the end of their life span. Despite this, the
5 Individual Defendant failed to ensure the Company complied with modern day standards and
6 allowed old and decayed poles to pose a serious risk to the public. The Company admitted in its
7 2022 PUC application that it needed funds to strengthen electrical poles and that over \$6.2 million
8 would be required for “wildfire prevention & mitigation on Maui,” and that \$40 million in capital
9 improvements/repairs would be needed to help prevent wildfires more generally.
10

11
12 127. Despite the foregoing, the Individual Defendants drastically underfunded their
13 wildfire-specific projects between 2019 and 2022, spending only a mere \$245,000 on such
14 projects. In fact, the Individual Defendants did not seek approval to raise their rates to pay for
15 necessary wildfire-safety improvements until 2022 and refused to approve capital spending on
16 ageing T&D components and wildfire prevention for years prior. The Individual Defendants thus
17 neglected wildfire prevention and increased the risk of a wildfire occurring while, at the same
18 time, falsely and misleadingly touting that the Company was addressing safety issues in its SEC
19 filings.
20

21 128. The Individual Defendants were made aware of, or should have been aware of, the
22 causal link between hurricanes and wildfires caused by T&D components. In 2020, researchers
23 from the University of Hawaii and the East-West Center published a report in the American
24 Meteorological Society Journal a report entitled “Fire and Rain: The Legacy of Hurricane Lane
25 in Hawai’i.” The report found that the fires on Maui and O’ahu following Hurricane Lane was
26 not caused by thunderstorms and lightning. Instead, the Honolulu Fire Department found that the
27
28

1 O'ahu fire was caused by power lines arcing in Hurricane Lane's high winds.

2 129. Moreover, the Company knew that other utility companies had a power shutoff
3 system to protect against wildfires in high winds yet failed to implement the same. San Diego Gas
4 & Electric implemented such a system over a decade ago to prevent causing wildfires, PG&E also
5 implemented a power shutoff system in 2019 following a fire its equipment caused, and the
6 California PUC opened Order Instituting Rulemaking (OIR) 18-12-005 to examine its rules
7 allowing electric utility companies to shutoff power lines in the event of dangerous conditions.
8 Despite this, the Individual Defendants failed to cause the Company to implement the same power
9 shutoff systems which could have prevented the devastating wildfire in August 2023.
10

11 130. The Company announced in 2019 that they would be using drones to assess fire
12 hazards in drought-prone areas of West Maui. The Individual Defendants had failed to invest
13 sufficiently in its wildfire-prevention programs and in maintaining its T&D components and
14 instead opted to use drones for wildfire identification, as opposed to prevention, as reflected by
15 this announcement.
16

17 131. The Individual Defendants knew, or should have known, that the Company must
18 follow various standards to protect the public from the consequences that follow from vegetation
19 coming into contact with its T&D components, pursuant to HRS § 6-73-11. Accordingly, the
20 Company was required to maintain the areas surrounding and adjacent to certain of its T&D
21 components and ensure sufficient clearance around its power lines. In addition, HRS § 6-73-14
22 provides that any maintenance issues not specifically addressed by HRS § 6-73-11 "should be
23 done in accordance with accepted good practice for the given local conditions known at the time
24 by those responsible for the construction or maintenance." Despite being under an obligation to
25 conform with these minimum safety standards, the Individual Defendants failed to cause the
26
27
28

1 Company to comply with those standards thus placing the public at a heightened risk of wildfires
2 caused by the Company's T&D components.

3 132. The Individual Defendants knew that in the days leading up to the August 2023
4 wildfire caused by them that Maui had been in a drought. The Individual Defendants also knew
5 that on August 7, 2023, a red flag warning was issued as high wind gusts of up to 60mph were
6 forecast across Hawaii and that, coupled with the dry conditions could create critical fire
7 conditions. Despite this, the Individual Defendants failed to shut off power in advance of August
8 8, 2023.
9

10 133. At all relevant times, the Individual Defendants knew the above facts, or at least
11 should have known of them in the exercise of prudent business judgement, yet failed to maintain
12 adequate systems, controls, and programs to prevent wildfires, failed to adequately maintain their
13 T&D components, failed to comply with or cause the Company to comply with minimum safety
14 standards, and failed to prevent the destructive August 2023 wildfire in Maui. Meanwhile, the
15 Individual Defendants made false and/or misleading statements and/or failed to disclose that: (i)
16 Hawaiian Electric's wildfire prevention and safety protocols and procedures were inadequate to
17 meet the challenges for which they were ostensibly designed; (ii) accordingly, despite knowing
18 the degree of risk that wildfires posed to Maui, the Company's inadequate safety protocols and
19 procedures placed Maui at a heightened risk of devastating wildfires; and (iii) as a result, the
20 Company's public statements were materially false and misleading at all relevant times.
21
22
23

24 ***The Aftermath***

25 134. Following the Maui wildfire caused by Hawaiian Electric, the Individual
26 Defendants continued to breach their fiduciary duties to the Company. In particular, the Individual
27 Defendants caused the Company to remove the fallen and damaged T&D components from
28

1 nearby a power station in Lahaina from around August 12, 2023.

2 135. At the time the T&D components were being removed, the Individual Defendants
3 knew that investigators from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (“ATF”)
4 had not yet arrived to conduct their investigation into the origin and cause of the wildfire in the
5 area. Moreover, the Individual Defendants knew, or should have known, that, according to the
6 National Fire Protection Association, “the integrity of a fire scene needs to be preserved” and that
7 “[e]vidence should not be handled or removed without documentation.”
8

9 136. This failure to preserve evidence was a direct breach of their fiduciary duties
10 because the Individual Defendants knew that failing to preserve evidence could subject Hawaiian
11 Electric to fines and penalties as the Company had discussed in 2022 the \$15 billion settlement
12 by California utility company PG&E for starting a wildfire and failing to preserve the evidence.
13

14 137. The wildfire caused by Hawaiian Electric had a devastating impact on Maui and
15 its residents. As noted, *supra*, the wildfire led to at least 97 deaths and between \$4 billion to \$6
16 billion in losses from property damage and business interruption. It was reported that the residents
17 of Lahaina had a matter of mere moments to escape the fires which led to many jumping into the
18 ocean and drowning, with others unable to escape and perishing in the fires.
19

20 **HARM TO THE COMPANY**

21 138. As a direct and proximate result of the Individual Defendants’ misconduct outlined
22 herein, the Company has lost and expended, and will continue to lose and expend, millions of
23 dollars.
24

25 139. These costs include, *inter alia*: (i) legal fees in connection with the Securities Class
26 Action, including attorneys’, accountants’, experts’, and investigators’ fees; (ii) costs to
27 implement measures to remedy the material weaknesses in Hawaiian Electric’s internal controls
28

1 over financial reporting; and (iii) substantial compensation and benefits paid to the Individual
2 Defendants, who breached their fiduciary duties to the Company.

3 140. Further, on August 24, 2023, the County of Maui filed a civil complaint in this
4 Court against the Company, among other electric utility companies, for negligence, gross
5 negligence, nuisance, ultrahazardous activity, injunctive relief, and trespass seeking damages for
6 the costs that the County of Maui incurred as a result of the August 2023 wildfires in the case
7 captioned: County of Maui v. Maui Electric Company, et al., 2CCV-23-0000238 (“Maui Action”).
8 As a result of the wrongs complained of herein, the Individual Defendants have subjected the
9 Company to the significant cost of defending itself against this Maui Action. The Company will
10 continue to incur significant sums in relation to the Maui Action and any liability or settlement
11 that results.
12

13 141. It has been estimated by Capstone that following the August 2023 wildfire caused
14 by Hawaiian Electric, the Company faces potential liability in excess of \$4.9 billion, up from a
15 previous estimate of \$3.9 billion. The Company also failed to preserve the wildfire evidence
16 before investigators from the ATF had arrived, in possible violation of national guidelines. As a
17 result, and as the Individual Defendants knew, removing evidence from the site of the wildfire
18 could lead to massive fines being imposed against the Company, as previously happened with
19 PG&E and SoCal Edison.
20

21 142. Further, as a result of the Individual Defendants’ failures to maintain adequate
22 safety protocols and make needed improvements to its T&D components, the Company is now
23 subject to regulatory and governmental investigations and actions. On August 31, 2023, it was
24 announced that a governmental investigation had been opened by U.S. Representatives Cathy
25 McMorris Rodgers (R-WA, Chair of the Energy and Commerce Committee), Jeff Duncan (R-SC,
26
27
28

Chair of the Energy, Climate, and Grid Security Subcommittee), and Morgan Griffith (R-VA, Chair of the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee). The Company may also be subject to SEC investigation and action as a result of the false and misleading statements and/or omissions made in the Company's public filings. As a result of the actual and potential investigations and actions, the Company will have to expend significant sums on complying with the investigations, defending itself and certain of the Individual Defendants, and on any penalties or fines that may result.

143. At all relevant times, the Company paid lucrative compensation to each of the Individual Defendants, totaling over \$50.4 million during the Relevant Period.

144. Moreover, on October 2, 2023, the Company revealed in a filing to the PUC that it had only \$165 million in annual general liability insurance and \$25 million in professional liability insurance which would cover only a small fraction of the potential liability that the Company faces from the above-referenced legal and regulatory actions. Thus, the Company will be unable to rely on insurance coverage for the majority of damages and may have to expend significant sums from its own pocket, thereby further damaging the Company.

145. As a direct and proximate result of the Individual Defendants' misconduct and breach of fiduciary duties, the Company has also suffered and will continue to suffer a loss of reputation and goodwill, and a liar's discount regarding Hawaiian Electric's stock in the future.

DERIVATIVE AND DEMAND FUTILITY ALLEGATIONS

146. Plaintiff brings this action derivatively in the right and for the benefit of the Company to redress injuries suffered and to be suffered as a direct and proximate result of the breach of fiduciary duties by the Individual Defendants.

147. Hawaiian Electric is named solely as a nominal party in this action. This is not a

1 collusive action to confer jurisdiction on this Court that it would otherwise not have.

2 148. Plaintiff is a current shareholder of Hawaiian Electric and was a continuous
3 shareholder of the Company during the period of the Individual Defendants' wrongdoing alleged
4 herein. Plaintiff will adequately and fairly represent the interests of the Company in enforcing
5 and prosecuting its rights and retained counsel competent and experienced in derivative litigation.
6

7 149. At the time this action was commenced, the seven-member Board was comprised
8 of Defendants Fargo, Seu, Connors, Flores, Fowler, Kane, and Scilacci (collectively, the "HEI
9 Directors"). The Board of Directors of Hawaiian Electric Company, Inc. consisted of the
10 following six directors: Johns, Kimura, Ajello, Kip, Pakkala, and Taniguchi (the "HECO
11 Directors") (together, the "Director Defendants"). All directors served on the Boards during the
12 period during which the Companies engaged in, authorized, or ignored the wrongdoing alleged
13 in this Complaint. Accordingly, Plaintiff must show that a majority of each Board, *i.e.*, four (4)
14 of the HEI Directors, and three (3) of the HECO Directors, cannot exercise independent objective
15 judgment about whether to bring this action or whether to vigorously prosecute it.
16
17

18 150. Each of the Director Defendants are incapable of making an independent and
19 disinterested decision to institute and vigorously prosecute this action, including because they face
20 a substantial likelihood of liability, and so demand on the Board to institute this action is not
21 necessary because such a demand would have been a futile act.
22

23 151. The Director Defendants, together and individually, violated and breached their
24 fiduciary duties of candor, good faith, and loyalty. Specifically, the Director Defendants
25 knowingly approved and/or permitted the wrongs alleged herein and participated in efforts to
26 conceal those wrongs. The Director Defendants authorized and/or permitted the Company to
27 violate the law, authorized and/or permitted the issuance of various false and misleading
28

1 statements, and are principal beneficiaries of the wrongdoing alleged herein. Accordingly, the
2 Director Defendants could not fairly and fully prosecute such a suit even if they instituted it.

3 152. The Director Defendants either knowingly or recklessly issued or caused the
4 Company to issue the materially false and misleading statements alleged herein. The Director
5 Defendants knew of the falsity of the misleading statements at the time they were made. As a
6 result of the foregoing, the Director Defendants breached their fiduciary duties, face a substantial
7 likelihood of liability, are not disinterested, and demand upon them is futile, and thus excused.
8

9 153. As members of the Board charged with overseeing the Company's affairs, each of
10 the Director Defendants had knowledge, or the fiduciary obligation to inform themselves, of
11 information pertaining to the Company's core operations and the material events giving rise to
12 these claims. Specifically, as members of the Board, the Director Defendants knew, or should have
13 known, the material facts surrounding Hawaiian Electric's compliance with the law and the
14 accuracy of its public statements.
15

16 154. Demand is also futile because all Director Defendants of both Companies acted in
17 bad faith and breached their duty of loyalty to the Companies by causing the Companies to move
18 evidence about the Maui Fire, thus failing to preserve key evidence in its original location so it
19 could be viewed and analyzed by the ATF. As demonstrated in detail supra, the Individual
20 Defendants caused the Company to move utility poles, transformers, and other key evidence to a
21 warehouse before ATF investigators could arrive on the scene. This conduct impeded
22 investigators' ability to view the evidence in its original location, unadulterated. The misconduct
23 and evidence spoliation will likely result in substantial fines and penalties being imposed on the
24 Companies. Breaches of the duties of good faith and loyalty cannot be indemnified. As a result,
25 the Director Defendants of both Companies face a substantial likelihood of personal liability for
26
27
28

1 breaching such duties. Demand as to all Director Defendants is thus futile.

2 155. The Director Defendants cannot consider a demand because (i) their decision to
3 operate Hawaiian Electric in violation of the law is not a protected business decision and (ii) they
4 all face a substantial likelihood of liability for breaching their duties of loyalty and good faith.
5 These defendants were either informed of Hawaiian Electric's deteriorating and dangerous electric
6 infrastructure and failed to take action or are consciously violating their duty to stay informed
7 about the core business of Hawaiian Electric. Such a decision could not have been an action taken
8 in good faith and is accordingly not protected by the business judgment rule. Furthermore, the
9 conscious failure of Defendants to act in the face of the overwhelming number of warnings is a
10 breach of the duties of care and loyalty. This breach subjects them to a substantial likelihood of
11 liability. Since demand on the majority of the Boards is futile, demand is excused.

12
13
14 156. Demand in this case is excused because each of the directors derive hundreds of
15 thousands of dollars annually from the Company, control the Company, and are indebted to each
16 other. These and other conflicts of interest have precluded the current directors from calling into
17 question the Director Defendants' conduct or taking any remedial actions to redress the conduct
18 alleged herein. Accordingly, the Director Defendants are incapable of making an independent and
19 disinterested decision to institute and vigorously prosecute this action due to their close
20 relationship with, and indebtedness to, the Director Defendants named herein.

21
22 157. All of the Director Defendants are subject to the Company's Code of Conduct. The
23 Code of Conduct goes well beyond the basic fiduciary duties required by applicable laws, rules,
24 and regulations, requiring the members of the Demand Board to also adhere to Hawaiian Electric's
25 of business conduct. The Director Defendants violated the Code of Conduct because they
26 knowingly or recklessly allowed the Company to violate the law. All of the Director Defendants
27
28

1 violated the Code of Conduct, including by refusing to take action to address the misconduct
2 alleged herein. As such, the entire Demand Board faces a substantial likelihood of liability for
3 breaching their fiduciary duties, and therefore demand upon them is futile.

4
5 158. None of the Director Defendants have taken any remedial action to investigate or
6 redress the Company's losses and exposure due to their and the other Individual Defendants'
7 misconduct.

8 159. The Director Defendants were required to, among other things: (i) ensure that the
9 Company complied with its legal and regulatory obligations and requirements; (ii) properly and
10 accurately guide investors and analysts as to the true financial condition of the Company at any
11 given time; (iii) remain informed as to how the Company conducted its operations, make
12 reasonable inquiries, and take steps to correct any improper conditions or practices; and (iv) ensure
13 the Company was operated in a diligent, honest, and prudent manner. Despite this, Defendant Seu
14 failed to fulfil these duties by making and/or permitting the false and misleading statements to be
15 made, not correcting those statements, and by permitting or causing the Company to fail to
16 maintain adequate controls and wildfire prevention strategies and systems.

17
18
19 ***Additional Allegation Regarding the HEI Directors***

20 160. Defendant Seu not disinterested or independent, and therefore, is incapable of
21 considering demand because he, as President and CEO, is an employee of the Company who
22 derives substantially all of his income from his employment with Hawaiian Electric, making him
23 not independent. In addition, Defendant Seu receives lucrative compensation in connection with
24 his employment with Hawaiian Electric, having received in excess of \$3.8 million in 2022 and in
25 excess of \$9.1 million during the Relevant Period. Defendant Seu's in a position of irreconcilable
26 conflict of interest in terms of the prosecution of this action and defending himself/herself in the
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1 Securities Class Action. As a trusted Company director and senior executive officer, Defendant
2 Seu conducted little, if any, oversight of the scheme to cause the Company to make false and
3 misleading statements, consciously disregarded his duties to monitor such controls over reporting
4 and engagement in the scheme, and consciously disregarded his duties to protect corporate assets.
5 In addition, Defendant Seu signed, and thus personally made the false and misleading statements
6 contained in the 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022 10-K's and the Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q as
7 alleged, supra. For this reason, Defendant Seu breached his fiduciary duties and faces and
8 substantial likelihood of liability therefor. Defendant Seu solicited the 2022 and 2023 Proxy
9 Statements containing the false and misleading statements and was elected to the Board and had
10 his executive compensation approved as a result. Consequently, Defendant Seu breached his
11 fiduciary duties and faces a substantial likelihood of liability therefor.

14 161. Defendant Fargo signed, and thus personally made the false and misleading
15 statements contained in the 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022 10-K's. For this reason, Defendant
16 Fargo breached his fiduciary duties and faces and substantial likelihood of liability therefor.
17 Defendant Fargo solicited the 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023 Proxy Statements containing the
18 false and misleading statements and was elected to the Board as a result. In connection with his
19 role as a Company director, Defendant Fargo receives substantial compensation. Consequently,
20 Defendant Fargo breached his fiduciary duties and faces a substantial likelihood of liability
21 therefor. Defendant Fargo also has a longstanding relationship with Defendant Ajello. Defendant
22 Fargo currently serves as a Senior Advisor at SKAI Ventures. Meanwhile, Defendant Ajello has
23 served on the Board of SKAI Ventures since 2015. Thus, Defendants Fargo and Ajello have
24 worked together and built a business relationship while at SKAI Ventures.

27 162. Defendant Connors signed, and thus personally made the false and misleading
28

1 statements contained in the 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022 10-K's. For this reason, Defendant
2 Connors breached her fiduciary duties and faces a substantial likelihood of liability therefor.
3 Defendant Connors solicited the 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023 Proxy Statements containing
4 the false and misleading statements and was elected to the Board as a result. In connection with
5 her role as a Company director, Defendant Connors receives substantial compensation.
6 Consequently, Defendant Connors breached her fiduciary duties and faces a substantial likelihood
7 of liability therefor. According to the Company's 2023 Proxy Statement, the Company and its
8 subsidiaries made charitable contributions to nonprofit organizations where Defendant Connors
9 serves as executive officer. As a result, Defendant Connors is not independent as she could not
10 reasonably consider a demand to sue the directors of the Company from which her nonprofit
11 receives donations and risk not receiving those similar contributions again in the future.

14 163. Defendant Flores signed, and thus personally made the false and misleading
15 statements contained in the 2021 and 2022 10-K's. For this reason, Defendant Flores breached her
16 fiduciary duties and faces a substantial likelihood of liability therefor. Flores solicited the 2022
17 and 2023 Proxy Statements containing the false and misleading statements and was elected to the
18 Board as a result. In connection with her role as a Company director, Defendant Flores receives
19 substantial compensation. Consequently, Defendant Flores breached her fiduciary duties and faces
20 a substantial likelihood of liability therefor.

23 164. In addition, Defendant Fowler signed, and thus personally made the false and
24 misleading statements contained in the 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022 10-K's. For this reason,
25 Defendant Fowler breached her fiduciary duties and faces a substantial likelihood of liability
26 therefor. Defendant Fowler solicited the 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023 Proxy Statements
27 containing the false and misleading statements and was elected to the Board as a result. In
28

1 connection with her role as a Company director, Defendant Fowler receives substantial
2 compensation. Consequently, Defendant Fowler breached her fiduciary duties and faces a
3 substantial likelihood of liability therefor. According to the Company's 2023 Proxy Statement and
4 website, Defendant Fowler possesses expertise in the "Utility/Energy Industry," having previously
5 served on the Board of Portland General Electric. As a result, Defendant Fowler knew the hazards
6 and risks inherent to the energy sector and thus posed by Hawaiian Electric. Despite this,
7 Defendant Fowler failed to ensure that the Company maintained its T&D components properly,
8 complied with minimum safety standards, engaged in wildfire prevention, and that the Company
9 operated in a safe manner. As a result of her failures as alleged herein, despite her advanced
10 knowledge and expertise, Defendant Fowler faces a substantial likelihood of liability.
11

12
13 165. In addition, Defendant Kane signed, and thus personally made the false and
14 misleading statements contained in the 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022 10-K's. For this reason,
15 Defendant Kane breached his fiduciary duties and faces a substantial likelihood of liability
16 therefor. Defendant Kane solicited the 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023 Proxy Statements containing
17 the false and misleading statements and was elected to the Board as a result. In connection with
18 his role as a Company director, Defendant Kane receives substantial compensation. Consequently,
19 Defendant Kane breached his fiduciary duties and faces a substantial likelihood of liability therefor.
20 According to the Company's 2023 Proxy Statement, the Company and its subsidiaries made
21 charitable contributions to nonprofit organizations where Defendant Kane serves as executive
22 officer. As a result, Defendant Kane is not independent as he could not reasonably consider a
23 demand to sue the directors of the Company from which his nonprofit receives donations and risk
24 not receiving those similar contributions again in the future. Defendant Kane also has a
25 longstanding relationship with Defendant Kimura. Defendant Kane is currently a Trustee of
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1 Kamehameha Schools, having held this position since 2009. Meanwhile, Defendant Kimura
2 presently serves on the Audit Committee of Kamehameha Schools. Thus, Defendants Kane and
3 Kimura have worked together and built a business relationship while at Kamehameha Schools. As
4 a result of the foregoing, Defendants Kane and Kimura are incapable of considering a demand to
5 sue each other.
6

7 166. Defendant Scilacci signed, and thus personally made the false and misleading
8 statements contained in the 2019, 2020, 2021, and 10-K's. For this reason, Defendant Scilacci
9 breached his fiduciary duties and faces a substantial likelihood of liability therefor. Scilacci
10 solicited the 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023 Proxy Statements containing the false and
11 misleading statements and was elected to the Board as a result. In connection with his role as a
12 Company director, Defendant Scilacci receives substantial compensation. Consequently,
13 Defendant Scilacci breached his fiduciary duties and faces a substantial likelihood of liability
14 therefor. According to the Company's 2023 Proxy Statement and website, Defendant Scilacci
15 possesses expertise in the "Utility/Energy Industry," having previously held positions within
16 Southern California Edison, including Senior Vice President and CFO. Defendant Scilacci is
17 reputed as "one of the top CFOs in the electric utility sector." As a result, Defendant Scilacci knew
18 the hazards and risks inherent to the energy sector and thus posed by Hawaiian Electric. Despite
19 this, Defendant Scilacci failed to ensure that the Company maintained its T&D components
20 properly, complied with minimum safety standards, engaged in wildfire prevention, and that the
21 Company operated in a safe manner. As a result of his failures as alleged herein, despite his
22 advanced knowledge and expertise, Defendant Scilacci faces a substantial likelihood of liability.
23

24 ***Additional Allegation Regarding the HECO Directors***
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26 167. Defendant Kimura not disinterested or independent, and therefore, is incapable of
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1 considering demand because she, as President and CEO, is an employee of the Company who
2 derives substantially all of his income from his employment with Hawaiian Electric, making her
3 not independent. In addition, Defendant Kimura receives lucrative compensation in connection
4 with her employment with the Company, having received in excess of \$1.5 million in 2022.
5 Accordingly, Defendant Kimura is not independent from Defendants Fargo, Flores, Fowler, and
6 Kane as they comprise the Compensation & Human Capital Management Committee
7 (“Compensation Committee”) and are responsible for evaluating and determining the
8 compensation of executive compensation and applicable benefits, including that of Defendant
9 Kimura. Because of her status as an inside director, and the concomitant substantial compensation
10 she receives, Defendant Kimura could not consider a demand adverse to the other Director
11 Defendants serving on the Compensation Committee who are responsible for her financial future.
12 Defendant Kimura signed, and thus personally made the false and misleading statements contained
13 in the 2021 and 2022 10-K’s and the Quarterly Reports filed on Form 10-Q as alleged, supra. For
14 this reason, Defendant Kimura breached her fiduciary duties and faces a substantial likelihood
15 of liability therefor. Defendant Kimura also has a longstanding relationship with Defendant Kane.
16 Defendant Kimura presently serves on the Audit Committee of Kamehameha Schools. Meanwhile,
17 Defendant Kane is currently a Trustee of Kamehameha Schools, having held this position since
18 2009. Thus, Defendants Kimura and Kane have worked together and built a business relationship
19 while at Kamehameha Schools. As a result of the foregoing, Defendants Kimura and Kane are
20 incapable of considering a demand to sue each other.

21 168. During the Relevant Period, Defendant Johns served as Chair of HECO’s Audit
22 Committee and had certain additional duties by virtue thereof. Such additional duties include
23 assisting the Board oversight of (i) the integrity of the Company’s financial statements; (ii) the
24

1 Company's compliance with legal and regulatory requirements; (iii) risk management and
2 compliance systems and structure; and (iv) the internal audit function. Despite this, Defendant
3 Johns failed to fulfil these additional duties by permitting the false and misleading statements to
4 be made, failing to ensure the Company's compliance with legal and regulatory safety
5 requirements, and not identifying and addressing the risks to the Company and its reputation as a
6 result of the wrongdoing as alleged herein. Defendant Johns completely abandoned his directorial
7 and Audit Committee duties and faces a substantial likelihood of liability therefor. Defendant
8 Johns signed, and thus personally made the false and misleading statements contained in the 2019,
9 2020, 2021, and 2022 10-K's. For this reason, Defendant Johns breached his fiduciary duties and
10 faces and substantial likelihood of liability therefor. In connection with his role as a Company
11 director, Defendant Johns receives substantial compensation.

14 169. Defendant Ajello signed, and thus personally made the false and misleading
15 statements contained in the 2020, 2021, and 2022 10-K's. For this reason, Defendant Ajello
16 breached his fiduciary duties and faces and substantial likelihood of liability therefor. In
17 connection with his role as a Company director, Defendant Ajello receives substantial
18 compensation. Defendant Ajello also has a longstanding relationship with Defendant Fargo.
19 Defendant Ajello has served on the Board of SKAI Ventures since 2015. Meanwhile, Defendant
20 Fargo also currently serves as a Senior Advisor at SKAI Ventures. Thus, Defendants Ajello and
21 Fargo have worked together and built a business relationship while at SKAI Ventures. As a result
22 of the foregoing, Defendants Ajello and Fargo are incapable of considering a demand to sue each
23 other.

26 170. Defendant Kipp signed, and thus personally made the false and misleading
27 statements contained in the 2022 10-K. For this reason, Defendant Kipp breached her fiduciary
28

1 duties and faces and substantial likelihood of liability therefor. In connection with her role as a
2 Company director, Defendant Kipp receives substantial compensation.

3 171. Defendant Pakkala signed, and thus personally made the false and misleading
4 statements contained in the 2020, 2021, and 2022 10-K's. For this reason, Defendant Pakkala
5 breached her fiduciary duties and faces and substantial likelihood of liability therefor. In
6 connection with her role as a Company director, Defendant Pakkala receives substantial
7 compensation. ccording to the Company's Exhibit 99.1 attached to the 2023 Annual Report,
8 entities in which Defendant Pakkala or her family members have an ownership interest engaged
9 in business with American Savings Bank – a wholly owned subsidiary of the Company in which
10 Defendants Seu, Dahl, and Otani serve on the Board. As a result of this business engagement,
11 Defendant Pakkala is not independent from the Company nor Defendants Seu, Dahl, and Otani
12 and could not reasonably consider a demand to sue these directors.

13 172. Defendant Taniguchi signed, and thus personally made the false and misleading
14 statements contained in the 2021 and 2022 10-K's. For this reason, Defendant Taniguchi breached
15 his fiduciary duties and faces and substantial likelihood of liability therefor. In connection with his
16 role as a Company director, Defendant Taniguchi receives substantial compensation.

17 ***Additional Futility Allegations***

18 173. The Director Defendants may also be protected against personal liability for their
19 acts of mismanagement and breaches of fiduciary duty alleged herein by directors' and officers'
20 liability insurance if they caused the Company to purchase it for their protection with corporate
21 funds *i.e.*, monies belonging to the stockholders of Hawaiian Electric. If there is a directors' and
22 officers' liability insurance policy covering the Director Defendants, it may contain provisions that
23 eliminate coverage for any action brought directly by the Company against the Director
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Defendants, known as, *inter alia*, the “insured-versus-insured exclusion.” As a result, if the Director Defendants were to sue themselves or certain officers of Hawaiian Electric, there would be no directors’ and officers’ insurance protection. Accordingly, the Director Defendants cannot be expected to bring such a suit. On the other hand, if the suit is brought derivatively, as this action is brought, such insurance coverage, if such an Insurance policy exists, will provide a basis for the Company to effectuate a recovery. Thus, demand on the Director Defendants is futile and, therefore, excused.

174. If there is no directors’ and officers’ liability insurance, then the Director Defendants will not cause Hawaiian Electric to sue the Defendants named herein, since, if they did, they would face a large uninsured individual liability. Accordingly, demand is futile in that event as well.

175. Accordingly, a pre-suit demand on the current Board comprised of the Director Defendants is futile and excused.

COUNT I

Against the Proxy Defendants (defined below) for Violations of § 14(a) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78n(a) and Rule 14a-9 (17 C.F.R. § 240.14a-9)

176. Plaintiff incorporates by reference and realleges each and every allegation contained above, as though fully set forth herein.

177. Section 14(a) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78n(a)(1), provides that “[i]t shall be unlawful for any person, by use of the mails or by any means or instrumentality of interstate commerce or of any facility of a national securities exchange or otherwise, in contravention of such rules and regulations as the [SEC] may prescribe as necessary or appropriate in the public interest or for the protection of investors, to solicit or to permit the use of his name to solicit any proxy or consent or authorization in respect of any security (other than an exempted security)

1 registered pursuant to section 12 of this title [15 U.S.C. § 78I].”

2 178. Rule 14a-9, promulgated pursuant to § 14(a) of the Exchange Act, provides that
3 no proxy statement shall contain “any statement which, at the time and in light of the
4 circumstances under which it is made, is false or misleading with respect to any material fact, or
5 which omits to state any material fact necessary in order to make the statements therein not false
6 or misleading.” 17 C.F.R. § 240.14a-9.

7
8 179. Under the direction and watch of Defendants Connors, Dahl, Fargo, Flores, Fowler,
9 Kane, Kennedy, Otani, Kennedy, Powell, Zlotnicka, Russell, Scilacci, and Seu (together, the
10 “Proxy Defendants”), each of the 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023 Proxy Statements (together,
11 the “Proxy Statements”) failed to disclose that: (i) Hawaiian Electric’s wildfire prevention and
12 safety protocols and procedures were inadequate to meet the challenges for which they were
13 ostensibly designed; (ii) accordingly, despite knowing the degree of risk that wildfires posed to
14 Maui, the Company’s inadequate safety protocols and procedures placed Maui at a heightened
15 risk of devastating wildfires; (iii) the fact that the Company did not maintain its equipment and in
16 fact had old, decaying equipment that went without necessary maintenance; and (iv) as a result,
17 the Company’s public statements were materially false and misleading at all relevant times.

18
19 180. The Proxy Defendants also caused the Proxy Statements to be false and misleading
20 with regard to executive compensation in that they purported to employ “pay-for-performance”
21 elements, while failing to disclose that the Company’s financial prospects were misrepresented
22 as a result of false and misleading statements, causing the Company’s share price to be artificially
23 inflated and allowing the Individual Defendants to wrongfully benefit from the fraud alleged
24 herein.

25
26 181. Moreover, the Proxy Statements were false and misleading when they discussed
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1 the Company's adherence to specific governance policies and procedures, including the Code of
2 Conduct, due to the Individual Defendants' failures to abide by them and their causing the
3 Company to engage in improper accounting practices and issue false and misleading statements
4 and/or omissions of material fact.

5
6 182. In the exercise of reasonable care, the Proxy Defendants should have known that
7 by misrepresenting or failing to disclose the foregoing material facts, the statements contained in
8 the Proxy Statements were materially false and misleading. The misrepresentations and omissions
9 were material to Plaintiff in voting on the matters set forth for shareholder determination in the
10 Proxy Statements, including but not limited to, election of directors and approval of executive
11 compensation.
12

13 183. The misrepresentations and omissions set forth herein were material to
14 shareholders in voting on the proposals in the Proxy Statements who would not have approved,
15 inter alia: (i) the election of Defendants Connors, Dahl, Fargo, Flores, Fowler, Kane, Kennedy,
16 Otani, Scilacci, Russell, Zlotnicka, Lau, and Seu to the Board; (ii) approval of the extension of
17 the term of the Company's Nonemployee Director stock plan and increase the shares available
18 for issuance thereunder; and (iii) the compensation of the Company's executive officers.
19

20 184. As a result of the respective Proxy Defendants causing the 2019 Proxy Statement
21 to be false and misleading, Company shareholders approved the proposals set forth therein,
22 including, inter alia: (i) the re-election of Defendants Connors, Fargo, and Scilacci to the Board
23 of Directors; (ii) approval of the extension of the term of the Company's Nonemployee Director
24 stock plan and increase the shares available for issuance thereunder; and (iii) approving executive
25 compensation.
26

27 185. As a result of the respective Proxy Defendants causing the 2020 Proxy Statement
28

1 to be false and misleading, Company shareholders approved the proposals set forth therein,
 2 including, *inter alia*: (i) the election of Defendants Fowler, Russell, Zlotnicka, and Kane to the
 3 Board of Directors; and (ii) approving executive compensation.

4
 5 186. As a result of the respective Proxy Defendants causing the 2021 Proxy Statement
 6 to be false and misleading, Company shareholders approved the proposals set forth therein,
 7 including, *inter alia*: (i) the election of Defendants Dahl, Kane, and Lau to the Board of Directors;
 8 and (ii) approving executive compensation.

9
 10 187. As a result of the respective Proxy Defendants causing the 2022 Proxy Statement
 11 to be false and misleading, Company shareholders approved the proposals set forth therein,
 12 including, *inter alia*: (i) the election of Defendants Connors, Dahl, Fargo, Flores, Kane, Scilacci,
 13 and Seu to the Board of Directors; and (ii) approving executive compensation.

14
 15 188. As a result of the respective Proxy Defendants causing the 2023 Proxy Statement
 16 to be false and misleading, Company shareholders approved the proposals set forth therein,
 17 including, *inter alia*: (i) the election of Defendants Connors, Dahl, Fargo, Flores, Fowler, Kane,
 18 Kennedy, Otani, Scilacci, and Seu to the Board of Directors; and (ii) approving executive
 19 compensation.

20 189. No adequate remedy at law exists for Plaintiff by and on behalf of the Company.

21 COUNT II

22 **Against Defendants Lau, Seu, Hazelton, and Ito for** 23 **Contribution Under §§ 10(b) and 21D of the Exchange Act**

24 190. Plaintiff repeats and realleges each and every allegation contained above as if fully
 25 set forth herein.

26
 27 191. The conduct of Defendants Lau, Seu, Hazelton, and Ito as described herein, has
 28 exposed the Company to significant liability under various federal securities laws by their

1 misconduct.

2 192. The Company, along with Defendants Lau, Seu, Hazelton, and Ito, are named as
3 defendants in the Securities Class Action, which asserts claims under the federal securities laws
4 for violations of Sections 10(b) and 20(a) of the Exchange Act, and SEC Rule 10b-5 promulgated
5 thereunder.
6

7 193. The Securities Class Action alleges that the class members relied, directly or
8 indirectly, upon the false and misleading statements and omissions, as alleged herein, in
9 purchasing the Company securities. The Securities Class Action further alleges that, as a direct
10 and proximate result, the class members suffered damages because the value of their investments
11 were artificially inflated by the false and misleading statements and omissions, they purchased
12 such securities at the artificially inflated prices, and the value of their investments fell when the
13 truth was eventually revealed, causing economic losses to the class members.
14

15 194. If and when the Company is found liable in the Securities Class Action for these
16 violations of the federal securities laws, the Company's liability will be in whole or in part due to
17 the Defendants Lau, Seu, Hazelton, and Ito's willful and/or reckless violations of their obligations
18 as officers and/or directors of the Company.
19

20 195. Defendants Lau, Seu, Hazelton, and Ito, because of their positions of control and
21 authority as senior executive officers of the Company, were able to and did, directly and/or
22 indirectly, exercise control over the business and corporate affairs of the Company, including the
23 wrongful acts complained of herein and in the Securities Class Action.
24

25 196. Accordingly, Lau, Seu, Hazelton, and Ito are liable under 15 U.S.C. § 78j(b), which
26 creates a private right of action for contribution, and Section 21D of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C.
27 § 78u-4(f), which governs the application of a private right of action for contribution arising out
28

1 of violations of the Exchange Act.

2 197. As such, Hawaiian Electric is entitled to receive all appropriate contribution or
3 indemnification from Defendants Lau, Seu, Hazelton, and Ito.
4

5 **COUNT III**

6 **Against the Individual Defendants for Breach of Fiduciary Duty**

7 198. Plaintiff incorporates by reference and realleges each and every allegation
8 contained above, as though fully set forth herein.
9

10 199. The Individual Defendants owed the Company fiduciary obligations. By reason
11 of their fiduciary relationships, the Individual Defendants owed the Company the highest
12 obligation of good faith, fair dealing, loyalty, and due care.

13 200. The Individual Defendants violated and breached their fiduciary duties of care,
14 loyalty, reasonable inquiry, and good faith.
15

16 201. The Individual Defendants engaged in a sustained and systematic failure to
17 properly exercise their fiduciary duties. Among other things, the Individual Defendants breached
18 their fiduciary duties of loyalty and good faith by allowing or permitting false and misleading
19 statements to be disseminated in the Company's SEC filings and other disclosures and, otherwise
20 failing to ensure that adequate internal controls were in place regarding the serious business
21 reporting issues and deficiencies described above. These actions could not have been a good faith
22 exercise of prudent business judgment to protect and promote the Company's corporate interests.
23

24 202. Specifically, throughout Relevant Period, the Individual Defendants issued false
25 and misleading statements failed to disclose material adverse facts about the Company's business
26 and operations, including a lack of internal controls and violations of law.
27

28 203. As a direct and proximate result of the Individual Defendants' failure to fulfill their

1 fiduciary obligations, the Company has sustained significant damages.

2 204. As a result of the misconduct alleged herein, the Individual Defendants are liable
3 to the Company. As a direct and proximate result of the Individual Defendants' breach of their
4 fiduciary duties, the Company has suffered damage, not only monetarily, but also to its corporate
5 image and goodwill. Such damage includes, among other things, costs incurred in defending
6 itself in the Securities Class Action, exposing the Company to millions of dollars in potential
7 class-wide damages in the Securities Class Action, and damage to the share price of the
8 Company's stock, resulting in an increased cost of capital, and reputational harm.
9

10 **COUNT IV**

11 **Against the Individual Defendants for Unjust Enrichment**

12 205. Plaintiff incorporates by reference and realleges each and every allegation
13 contained above, as though fully set forth herein.
14

15 206. By their wrongful acts, violations of law, and inaccurate and untruthful
16 information and/or omissions of material fact that they made and/or caused to be made, the
17 Individual Defendants were unjustly enriched by at least \$50.4 million at the expense of, and to
18 the detriment of, the Company, as detailed supra.
19

20 207. The Individual Defendants either benefitted financially from the improper conduct,
21 or received bonuses, stock options, or similar compensation from the Company that was tied to
22 the performance of the Company or its stock price or received compensation or other payments
23 that were unjust in light of the Individual Defendants' bad faith conduct.
24

25 208. Plaintiff, as a shareholder and representative of the Company seeks restitution
26 from Defendants and seek an order from this Court disgorging all profits, including from insider
27 transactions, the redemption of preferred stock, benefits, and other compensation, including any
28

1 performance-based or valuation-based compensation, obtained by the Individual Defendants due
2 to their wrongful conduct and breach of their fiduciary and contractual duties.

3 209. Plaintiff on behalf of Hawaiian Electric has no adequate remedy at law.
4

5 **COUNT V**

6 **Against the Individual Defendants for Waste of Corporate Assets**

7 210. Plaintiff incorporates by reference and realleges each and every allegation
8 contained above, as though fully set forth herein.
9

10 211. The wrongful conduct alleged regarding the issuance of false and misleading
11 statements was continuous, connected, and on-going throughout the time period in issue. It
12 resulted in continuous, connected, and ongoing harm to the Company.

13 212. As a result of the misconduct described above, the Individual Defendants wasted
14 corporate assets by, *inter alia*: (i) paying and collecting excessive compensation and bonuses; and
15 (ii) incurring potentially millions of dollars of legal liability and/or legal costs, including
16 defending the Company and its officers against the Securities Class Action.
17

18 213. As a result of the waste of corporate assets, the Individual Defendants are liable to
19 the Company.
20

21 214. Plaintiff on behalf Hawaiian Electric has no adequate remedy at law.

22 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

23 WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands judgment as follows:

24 A. Awarding money damages against all Individual Defendants, jointly and severally,
25 for all losses and damages suffered as a result of the acts and transactions complained of herein,
26 together with pre-judgment interest, molded in a fashion to ensure the Individual Defendants do
27 not participate therein or benefit thereby;
28

B. Directing all Individual Defendants to account for all damages caused by them and all profits and special benefits and unjust enrichment they have obtained as a result of their unlawful conduct, including all salaries, bonuses, fees, stock awards, options and common stock sale proceeds, and imposing a constructive trust thereon;

C. Awarding punitive damages;

D. Awarding costs and disbursements of this action, including reasonable attorneys' fees, accountants' and experts' fees, costs, and expenses; and

E. Granting such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

JURY DEMAND

Plaintiff hereby demands a trial by jury.

Dated: January 31, 2024

**WOLF HALDENSTEIN ADLER
FREEMAN & HERZ LLP**

By: /s/ Betsy C. Manifold

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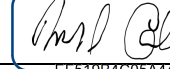
8 *Attorneys for Plaintiff*
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VERIFICATION

I, Michael Cole, have reviewed the allegations made in this Verified Shareholder Derivative Complaint, know the contents thereof, and authorize its filing. To those allegations of which I have personal knowledge, I believe those allegations to be true. As to those allegations of which I do not have personal knowledge, I rely upon my counsel and their investigation and believe them to be true. I further declare that I am a current holder, and have been a holder, of Hawaiian Electric Industries, Inc. common stock at all relevant times.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States that the foregoing is
1/31/2024
true and correct. Executed this _____ day of _____ 2024.

DocuSigned by:

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Michael Cole